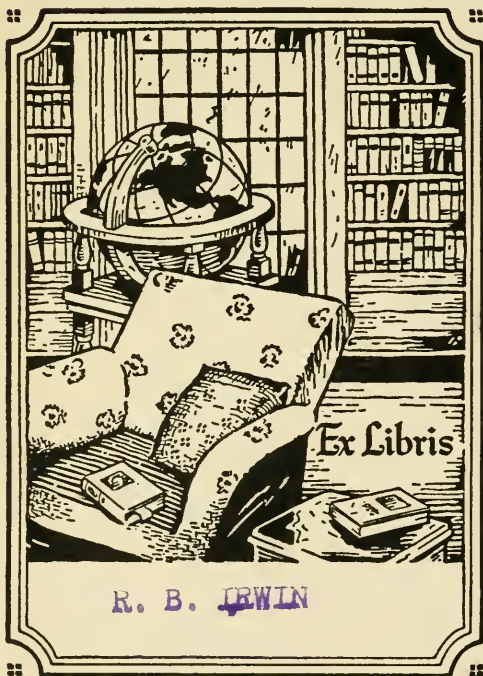






AMERICAN FOUNDATION
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The Blind.

VOL. III.

No. 41.

JANUARY, 20TH, 1908.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before March 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

With this number we begin Volume III., having completed two Volumes, with 40 numbers, extending over a period of ten years.

When we look back over the record of those years, and see the enormous amount of work that has been done for the benefit of the Blind, it can be truly said that there never has been so much interest taken in this afflicted class as there has been in recent years, and is being taken at the present time.

We hoped to have written a short account for this number, showing the remarkable progress in many and diverse directions during the last ten years, but unfortunately our time has been too deeply pledged to attempt such an article. We can only refer to the new, or much enlarged, Schools or Workshops, at Birmingham, Brighton (Barclay Home), Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Leatherhead, Liverpool, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Northampton, Nottingham, Sheffield, Worcester, &c. The new Homes at Sheffield, Southend-on-sea, South London, Southport, and Swansea, and the enlargement of the North London Home, etc. Then recently, we have seen the formation of a College of Teachers of the Blind, which it is hoped will meet a much felt need, and of the Northern Union, which already, in a very short time, has excited the astonishment, and admiration

of many at the manner in which the workers of the various Institutions and Societies in the six northern counties of England are being tactfully brought together for common counsel, and how the individual blind persons are being sought out and their needs ascertained.

These efforts, not to mention the Conferences in 1902 and 1905, and the one to be held this year, the increase in Braille literature, the Home Teaching Societies, and many other excellent branches of work, are the strongest possible evidence of the large number of earnest minded helpers who are working heart and soul in the cause of the Blind. Especially would we refer in admiration to the zeal and singlehearted devotion to their duties shown by the Superintendents of the various Institutions. The many difficulties they have to grapple with, the constant watchfulness over their pupils and employees, the necessary tact to be shown at all times are a great strain on any man, and are not realized, as a rule, nor appreciated as they ought to be, by the general outside public.

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. At the Government Examination for Teachers' Certificates, held in July last at the Smith Training College, Dora Burrell passed with distinction in English Language, Literature, Composition, History and Geography. Emily Johns with distinction in History and Geography. Edith Manning, Margaret Sullivan and Cissie Till passed the Preliminary Examination for Elementary School Teachers' Certificate. William Jackson passed the Matriculation Examination London University and has entered Wadham College, Oxford. All the above were students of the Royal Normal College.

2. By special arrangement with the Scottish Education Department, the Board of Education held an Examination for the Certificate for Blind Teachers in Elementary Schools. Two

candidates from the Royal Blind Asylum and School, Edinburgh, Miss Adams and Miss King, were presented, and both passed with distinction. This is the first time that such an examination has been held in Scotland. This has been a particularly successful year for Miss Adams, as, in addition to passing the Certificate Examination of the Board of Education, she has also passed the Professional Diploma Examination of the Incorporated Society of Musicians.

3. Mr. H. Lewis, a former student of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester, has passed moderations, and Mr. Wolstenholme's "Woodland Meditation" was selected for performance at a concert in connection with the Conference of the Incorporated Society of Musicians.

4. Mr. L. W. R. Mulloy, who lost his sight in the South African War, and enjoys the freedom of several towns in Canada, has become a member of Balliol College, Oxford. After his blindness he graduated B.A. at Queen's College, Toronto, and if he attains his ambition, will be the first blind man on whom a Research Degree has been conferred.

5. William Laurie, A.R.C.O., of the Royal Normal College has passed the Licentiate Examination of the Royal Academy in pianoforte playing.

6. At the Exeter Municipal Election, held last November, Mr. C. M. Collingwood, Superintendent of the Institution for the Blind, was elected Councillor for St. David's Ward, in the Conservative cause.

7. Mr. H. M. Taylor, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and a Fellow of the Royal Society, has set on foot a scheme for providing scientific works for the Blind, feeling as he does from personal experience that there is a sad lack of books in Braille type on such subjects as Mechanics, Physics, Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, and Geology. The scheme is

being warmly supported, both financially and otherwise, by many well-known men of science. Lord Rayleigh referred to it in his Presidential Address to the Royal Society on 30th of November last, and mentioned the fact that Mr. Taylor, in the last twelve months, had written in Braille type for the use of stereotypers, the whole of Mr. C. Smith's Elementary Algebra. Mr. Taylor estimates that a sum of £600 to £800 would form a fund large enough to test the usefulness of the scheme. Over £300 has already been subscribed. The fact that the books will contain mathematical or other symbols, and that the number of copies required will probably, at first, be small, naturally increases the price of publication, and it is with a view to selling the books at a moderate price, that this excellent scheme, to which we cordially wish all success, has been started by Mr. Taylor. Many blind persons will be deeply grateful to him for putting within their reach works which have been beyond their means, and hitherto unattainable. There is no intention at present to invite annual subscriptions, but donations to the fund may be paid to Mr. Taylor.

8. Founder's Day, or the 46th anniversary of the opening of the Bradford Institution for the Blind, was celebrated, as usual, on November 13th, when the principal speaker was Mr. J. J. Plater, who was educated at the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, and who has succeeded so remarkably well in the business of basket-making at Birmingham. He stated that he started at first with very little money, and used to work from 6 a.m. to midnight at basketwork, and that now he employed many hands, had lucrative investments, and had paid income tax on £1,000 a year. He gave many amusing experiences in his career, and showed how industry and enterprise had been the main factors in his success.

9. The School for the Blind, 10, Upper Avenue Road, Swiss Cottage, London, N.W., has been certified by the Board of Education under Section 2 of the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1903. There is accommodation for 96, viz., 78 resident (43 boys and 35 girls), and 18 day pupils.

10. Twelve candidates from the Royal Blind Asylum and School, Edinburgh, were presented this year in Pianoforte-Playing, Violin-Playing, and Singing, at the local examinations of the Incorporated Society of Musicians. All candidates passed, and five obtained honours.

11. In paragraph 16 of our last number, we stated that "Golden Sunbeams," the new magazine for children, consisted of extracts from a magazine of the same name issued by the Sunbeam Mission. This is incorrect, as the last named magazine is published and issued by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, which has kindly given permission for excerpts to be reprinted in Braille. The magazine is recommended by the Sunbeam Mission.

12. The Governors of Christ's Hospital have decided to pay in future the annuities of Hetherington's Charity on November 5th, in each year, instead of on December 10th, as formerly.

13. A new edition of the English Bible, Authorised Version, in Braille type, is in preparation by the British and Foreign Bible Society, 146, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C. St. Matthew's Gospel is ready, and other portions will be issued successively until the whole Bible has been completed.

The volumes will be produced in the same style of paper, binding and printing as formerly; but in order to encourage the circulation of the Scriptures amongst the Blind, the Committee have decided to issue these portions at an uniform price of 1/- per copy net ($1/1\frac{1}{2}$ post free), instead of, as hitherto, at prices varying from 2/6 to 3/6. To produce each volume will cost the Society more than double the price charged for it. Owing to the pressure of work in preparing Braille books in other languages for the mission field, it will take some time to complete the whole Bible, but until any volume of the old edition can be replaced it will still be supplied, but at the reduced price of 1/- per copy. Every care will be taken to make the books as strong, as light, and as legible as possible.

14. The beneficent work of the National Lending Library for the Blind, 125, Queen's Road, Bayswater, London, W., is rapidly increasing by the earnest efforts of the Secretary, Miss E. W. Austin. A catalogue of the books and music has recently been printed in Braille (interpointed). It consists of 99 sheets, and should prove a great boon to our blind friends when selecting some special work for reading. The Library consists of about 9,000 volumes, and over 500 are added yearly. They include history, biography, poetry, fiction, children's books, and a few in foreign languages. There are also over 1,000 volumes of embossed music. The readers number over 900; and 51 Institutions for the Blind, and 10 Free Libraries are supplied with books. The number of books, which are very bulky, is increasing so rapidly, and the space necessary for the ever-growing work of despatching cases and books is so limited, that the comparatively new premises are already felt to be rather too small. What a splendid nucleus there is here for one large National Free Library for the Blind! Imagine what an inestimable boon such an Institution would be for the Blind! We cannot help thinking that Mr. Carnegie, with his great liberality and love of books, would not turn a deaf ear to their cry for a Free Library Building which he has granted to sighted persons in so many towns, if the need were clearly put before him.

15. Can any of our readers kindly supply Mr. Guy M. Campbell, Royal Normal College of the Blind, Upper Norwood, S.E., with the numbers 28, 29, and 34 of "The Blind," so as to complete vol. ii. These and other numbers are out of print.

16. At a meeting of the Town Council of Accrington, held on November 9th, it was resolved to allow all blind persons living in the district covered by the tramways, to travel over the lines free of charge in future. This news ought to strengthen Mr. Mead's further appeal to the West Ham Borough Council, to which we referred in July last, paragraph 25.

17. The following books have been added to the Free

Public Library at Oxford :—Plato's Republic (Jewett's Translation), Edmund Burke's Speech on American Taxation, Carter's History of English Legal Institutions, Lawrence's International Law, Westcott's Study of the Gospels, The Epistles of St. John and St. Jude, in Greek, Pullan's Church of the Fathers, Gardiner's Puritan Revolution, and Homer's Odyssey.

18. A course of lectures has been given fortnightly during the winter evenings at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester. The lectures, which were thrown open to the public, included "The Pictorial Bible of the Middle Ages," by Mr. F. C. Gillett, and "Parochial Life in the Middle Ages," by the Rev. Canon J. M. Wilson.

19. From the beginning of December last the "Daily Mail" weekly edition for the Blind has been printed on behalf of the proprietors by the British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W.

20. In our last number we mentioned that Mr. Hirst had left Whitby. We are glad to know that a Committee of ten has been formed, consisting of the five Trustees, and five elective members, to carry on the good work he organised for the benefit of the Blind in Whitby. We are also pleased to hear that Mr. Hirst has already greatly benefited in health and strength by coming further south.

21. The Liverpool Catholic Blind Asylum in Brunswick Road, Liverpool, is undertaking extensive alterations for the purpose of improving the accommodation for the inmates. A part of the institution consisting of old houses set back from the street, is to be pulled down and rebuilt in accordance with more modern plans, at a cost of about £2,500. The result of the alterations will be very little addition to the accommodation, but will effect some long desired improvements. In the meantime, the girls will remain in the country house in West Derby, as it is their quarters which are being principally interfered with. It is

the practice of this institution, for the boys and girls to spend alternate periods of three months in the town and in the country. It is found that the change is beneficial to both mind and body.

22. Boot and Shoe Repairing has been introduced at the Royal Blind Asylum and School, Edinburgh, with most satisfactory results. Mr. Siddall, of Rochdale, began a course of instruction in June last, and now the bulk of the repair work of the Institution is being done on the premises.

23. The Royal Normal College Calendar, for 1908, is exceptionally well got up, and shows what pretty devices can be obtained from the ordinary typewriter. On the right-hand, at the top of the card, is a photograph of the College Buildings from the lower grounds, and in the left-hand corner of the card, at the bottom, a small printed Calendar is attached. In the centre of the card are "Thoughts for the day."

"Sow an Act and you reap a Habit,
Sow a Habit and you reap a Character,
Sow a Character and you reap a destiny,"

and "Resolve to perform what you ought, and then perform without fail what you resolve."

The elegant get-up of the card reflects much credit on the pupils who have so thoroughly mastered the typewriter under the able instruction of Mr. D. Black.

24. Transcriptions of "Progress" in typewriting will be on sale at the Typewriting Department of the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, Christ Church Passage, New Street, Birmingham, at the following prices, provided that sufficient subscribers can be obtained, *i.e.* 10 subscribers at 2/6, 20 at 1/9, 30 at 1/7, or 50 at 1/3 per month. Names should be sent at once to the Secretary of the Institution, who will advise subscribers as to the amount payable.

25. A successful Bazaar was held in Birmingham in December, to raise money for the purpose of building new

Workshops for the Blind. Orders have already been given for the erection of two new workshops near the Kindergarten School, on the Harborne land. Each shop is to measure 100 by 45 feet, and the cost of these shops will be about £2,500, without lighting, machinery, or fittings, but including the warming apparatus. The Souvenir with Programme of the Bazaar, containing a history of the Institution, is very complete, and neatly drawn up, and we understand that the entire cost of printing it was covered by the advertisements.

26. A Grand Concert was held on October 31st, at the Town Hall, Stratford, in aid of the funds of the Indigent Blind Visiting Society, and was very successful financially and otherwise. Between the 1st and 2nd parts of the programme, a brief statement as to the objects of the Society was made by Mr. J. Tennant (the Chairman), and Mr. W. Mead (the Superintendent).

27. The annual Two Days' Sale of Work, on behalf of the funds of the School for the Blind, 10, Upper Avenue Road, London, N.W., was held last November, and the proceeds realized £165.

28. In many directions action is being taken at the present time to prevent blindness, and to warn parents of the danger of infantile blindness. An interesting book on the subject, called "Preventable Blindness," price 2/6 net, has recently been written by Mr. N. Bishop Harman, oculist (with care of blind children), London County Council Schools. The Committee of the Yorkshire School for the Blind invited the 65 registered midwives in York, 58 accepting the invitation, to a meeting held on November 20th, when an address was delivered on "The Prevention of Blindness of newborn children," by Mr. W. Draper, M.R.C.S.Eng. The meeting was presided over by the Dean of York. Mr. Draper stated, that of the 130 children at present in the Yorkshire School, 40 (*i.e.* $\frac{1}{3}$) had lost their sight in infancy, and that this could have been prevented by proper treatment at birth. He added, that in some schools the proportion was as

high as 40%. The North of England Union of Societies for the Blind, is also doing excellent work, by a distribution of papers on Prevention of Blindness (*v.* special article on the Union. page 22).

29. A very successful Drawing-room Meeting, both financially and otherwise, was held in connection with the Barclay Home for the Blind at Brighton, on November 22nd, at 2, Adelaide Crescent, Hove, the house of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Wagg, who take much interest in the Home, and whose daughter is the devoted and indefatigable Hon. Secretary. H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, attended the meeting, which was presided over by Sir Francis Mowatt, K.C.B., one of the Committee of the Home. He referred to the financial needs of the Home and the good work being carried on there in giving instruction to 90 blind girls. The Duke of Norfolk and the Vicar of Brighton having strongly commended the work in the Home, the Princess kindly received purses from a large number of children, on whom she bestowed gracious smiles. The Chairman having expressed grateful thanks to the Princess for her attendance, the Duke of Argyll responded, and expressed a hope that the requisite money might be raised that afternoon.

30. On November 6th, the ceremony of the Opening of the South London Institute for the Blind, at 82, Borough Road, S.E., by the Lady Pirrie, was carried out most successfully, and was well attended. The charity was founded in 1870, and until recently was called "Hampton's Mission for the Blind." The site of the present Institute was acquired on lease from the Corporation of London in 1904, and in May, 1906, the foundation stone was laid by His Grace the Duke of Argyll. At the Meeting on November 6th, the Chair was taken by the President, The Right Hon. R. K. Causton, M.P., who, after the hymn "O God our Help in ages past" had been sung, referred, in his introductory remarks, to the fact that the Institution was founded by the late James Hampton, a painter, who carried on the work practically single-handed from 1870 to 1898. Then a Committee

was formed, the work widened, and to-day they had a building of their own. The Rev. St. Clare Hill, Hon. Secretary, next read a report on the work of the Charity, which is divided into three parts. (1) A bureau for assisting the Blind to obtain suitable employment, and pensions, and for relieving the sick and needy. (2) A polytechnic, where religious services are conducted, literature is supplied, suitable recreation and entertainments provided, and educational classes are carried on. (3) A home, with dormitory accommodation for young unmarried blind women—food, lodging, and general care being provided at the minimum cost.

Mr. Hill explained that at present it was intended to charge each inmate only 5/- a week for food, dormitory, and sitting-room, and that there was dormitory accommodation for nine girls. He further stated that the Institute in its extended form is the first of its kind in Europe, and that the work is carried on by honorary helpers. After the Archdeacon of Southwark, in the unavoidable absence of the Bishop through illness, had made a few remarks, the key of the building was presented by the Chairman to Lady Pirrie, who then formally opened the new building, and addressed the meeting in most sympathetic and feeling terms, and pleaded strongly for a strenuous effort to be made to pay off the debt of £2,400, which still remained on the building. The meeting was addressed also by Sir Vaughan Morgan, ex-Lord Mayor of London, by three Members of Parliament, by Sir Ronald Lane, and by others, who wished all success to the Institution and commended the work. After the usual votes of thanks were proposed, the Doxology was sung, and the National Anthem.

It must have been a source of great satisfaction to the Rev. St. Clare Hill, Hon. Secretary, on whom has fallen the brunt of the work, to see such a compact building erected in South London, as a centre for increased work amongst the Blind in that district, and we offer him our cordial congratulations not only on a very successful meeting, but also on the permanent result of his labours in the establishment of a Residential Home for unmarried blind girls who are engaged in regular work at factories in the neighbourhood.

31. The Society, called "Eyes to the Blind," is carried on in London in a quiet, unostentatious, but none the less efficient manner, by the Hon. Secretary, Miss L. Douglas-Hamilton. Its object is to provide work for blind women and girls who live in their own homes, and by prompt and regular payment, to prevent their having to wait for their money till a market can be found for their work. For this purpose they are taught to knit, and to do good plain needlework, and are paid a fair remuneration on delivery of each completed article, if it is found to be satisfactory. In this way it is hoped that they may be enabled to earn 2/- a week. Experience, however, has shown that clever workers can earn double that amount if they have no housework to do in their homes. The members subscribe 6d. annually to the Society, which entitles them to all its benefits. But an increase in the sales is necessary before each of the members can earn the possible maximum, and derive the greatest possible benefit. The success of the Society entirely depends on the extent of its sales, and its usefulness is limited by the limitations of its market. Last year the sales amounted to £130, of which sum £80 were paid in wages to the members. These figures are the highest yet attained, but they could easily be doubled if a market could be found. Miss Emery, for the third time, has kindly given an order for 300 pairs of stockings, which means £22 in wages to the Blind. Last year, at a competition of the Society for Promoting Female Welfare, at which some 27 Societies were represented, "Eyes to the Blind" obtained the A Certificate for both knitting and Crochet, in spite of the great majority of the competing exhibits being the work of sighted people. Anyone who wishes to see the work is invited to call at 17, Callow Street, Fulham Road, London, S.W., the Office of "Eyes to the Blind." and will find the Hon. Secretary at home on Thursday afternoons. A sum of £100 per annum is required to pay the rent of the little flat, and to keep a servant to cut out and look after the work.

32. In connection with their Schools for the Blind, the London County Council have issued an excellent scheme of

instruction in English Language, including Braille, reading, spelling, writing, composition, recitation, arithmetic, geography, history, object or information lessons, singing, drill, typewriting, and manual occupation. The scheme is intended as an outline to indicate the lines on which the Syllabus of the class or school should be based, and is divided into successive stages, viz.:— Preliminary, from the age of 5 to 7; Grade I., 7 to 9; Grade II., 9 to 11; Grade III., 11 to 13; Grade IV., 13 to 15; and Grade V., 15 to 16. The Council have also circulated the following valuable hints as to the care of blind children in the home :—

“The object of sending a blind child to school is that it shall be trained to become, as far as possible, like ordinary people when it grows older. The first care of parents and teachers is, therefore, to bring up the child and to treat it as far as possible as though it were an ordinary child. Although it will be necessary to exercise greater care for the afflicted one than for the ordinary child, it is very necessary not to let the afflicted one become aware of the greater care. The following hints may be useful in the treatment of a blind child in the home :—

1. Always encourage the child to move about as freely and naturally as possible. While taking care that nothing harmful is in the way, do not remove all obstacles from its path.

2. Encourage the child to dress itself as early in life as you can. Do not excuse it from ‘tying and untying,’ ‘buttoning and unbuttoning,’ ‘doing its own hair,’ ‘cleaning its own boots.’

3. Train the child at table to eat its food like an ordinary child, to use a knife and fork, and not merely a fork and spoon, to cut up its own dinner, to eat tidily, etc.

4. Arrange for the child to have plenty of out-door exercise, walks, playing games, visits to suitable entertainments and gatherings, and take care that the child holds itself upright, does not turn in its toes, does not walk arm-in-arm with others. Merely to take the hand or finger of the one with whom the child is walking should be sufficient help.

5. Do not let the child remain in one position too long. Check from the first any tendency to bad habits, *e.g.*, pulling ugly faces, waving arms, hands and fingers, swinging the head and body.

6. Encourage the child to help to do little duties in the house and to take the responsibility of such duties, *e.g.*, laying a table, washing-up. Give the child every opportunity of handling common objects."

33. Miss Helen Keller has expressed herself very strongly in regard to the multiplicity of types for the Blind. She says—"A plague upon them all, let us have one system, whether it be ideal or not. For my part, I wish nothing had been invented except European Braille. There was already a considerable library in this system when the American fever for invention plunged us into this Babel of prints, which is typical of the many confusions from which the Blind suffer throughout the United States." And so say all of us!

34. Copies of the Official Report of the Conference on matters relating to the Blind, April, 1902, can be obtained from the Editor, price 1/-, or by post, 1/4.

35. The "Outlook for the Blind," for October, gives the first part of the proceedings at the Ninth Convention of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, held in Boston, August last. The papers and speeches are printed verbatim and are most interesting reading. Other papers will be printed in the two following numbers.

36. A copy of a most useful Catalogue of Books relating to the Blind, collected by the Perkins Institution, Boston, U.S.A., has been kindly sent to us. It consists of Part I., Books in English, and contains 192 pages, including index. The conception of a Special Library of such books originated with Dr. Howe, and the few books collected by him were largely increased by Mr. Anagnos. Mr. Edward E. Allen remarks, in a "notice" to the addenda, that the list is the first considerable one of its kind known to him, although it is far from complete.

THE SECOND TRIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE BLIND.

MANCHESTER, 1908.

The Committee appointed to organize the second Triennial International Conference on the Blind, held a meeting at Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester, on October 26th, at 11 a.m., when there were present :—Mr. Barnes, Dr. Campbell, Mr. Collingwood, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Miss Moon, Messrs. Munby, Pine, Stainsby, Tate, Illingworth (Hon. General Secretary), and H. J. Wilson (Chairman). Apologies for non-attendance were received from the Rev. Dr. Burns, and Messrs. Frew Bryden, and B. P. Jones.

Councillor Royle warmly welcomed the Committee at Henshaw's Blind Asylum, and the Chairman thanked him for his kind reception.

It was agreed that papers be read on the following subjects. The names of those who have kindly acceded to the request to read papers are also given :—

- (1) The Technical Training and Employment of the Blind in :—
 - (a) The United States of America, by Mr. Green, Superintendent of the St. Louis Institution for the Blind, Missouri.
 - (b) Canada, by Dr. Fraser, Superintendent of Halifax Institution for the Blind, Nova Scotia.
 - (c) France, by M. Maurice de la Sizeranne, Paris.
- (2) General Subject of the Blind in Japan, by Mr. Tadasu Yoshimoto, Japan.
- (3) Psychology of Blindness and the Care of Blind Children during the all important formation years, from one to five, by Mr. J. M. Ritchie, Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester.
- (4) The Housing of the Blind, Residential Holiday Homes, Improved Methods of Visitation and Home Teaching, and the Promotion of After-Care and Visitation

Committees, by Miss I. M. Heywood, Founder and Hon. Secretary of the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society.

- (5) Music, by Mr. H. E. Platt, Teacher of Music at the General Institution for the Blind, Birmingham.
- (6) Recreations for the Blind, by Mr. W. Littlewood, Headmaster of Wavertree School for the Blind, Liverpool.
- (7) The State of the Blind in Ireland, and how their condition may be improved, by Mr. Mulholland, of the Mission to the Outdoor Blind, Belfast.
- (8) Pension Schemes for the Blind, their Value and Abuse, by Miss E. F. Massey, Manchester.

The papers will be printed and circulated to members on the evening prior to their being read.

The outlines of the various papers, submitted by the writers, were discussed, revised, and approved as amended.

The draft of the preliminary circular for the Conference was submitted and approved with slight emendations. It was agreed to distribute it abroad through the agency of the Colonial and Foreign Offices, if possible, and that it should be addressed to the Secretary or Superintendent of the Institutions and Societies in order to secure official representation as much as possible.

The circular announces that the Conference Meetings will be held in the Central Halls, Oldham Street, Manchester, and that they will be preceded by a Dedication Service in St. Thomas's Church (Henshaw's Blind Asylum Chapel), on Sunday, July 26th, at 6.30 p.m. The opening meeting will be held at 2 p.m., on July 27th, when the Right Hon. the Earl of Derby, K G., &c., &c., has kindly consented to preside, and the proceedings will be continued in morning and afternoon sessions until Saturday morning, August 1st. On July 29th (Wednesday), a visit will be paid to Liverpool, where there will be a morning session only, the afternoon being devoted to visiting the Institutions for the Blind in that city. In connection with the Conference, there will be an International Exhibition, which will be open from Friday, July 24th, to Monday, August 3rd, inclusive. Those

desiring to exhibit, or to become members of the Conference, should notify the Secretary, Mr. W. H. Illingworth, Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester, before March 31st. The Local Committee hope to be able to arrange free board and lodging for members coming from abroad, or from a long distance, if they express their willingness to accept such hospitality. The official handbook, which will contain descriptive accounts and photographs of Institutions and Societies connected with the Blind in Manchester and Liverpool, and a brief history of Manchester and a map of the district, will cost only 6d. Advertisements can be inserted and particulars obtained on application to the Hon. Secretary.

At 2.15 p.m. the Committee adjourned for lunch, kindly provided at the Institution.

At 3 p.m. there was a joint meeting of the General and Local Committees, when there were present:—Messrs. Barnes and Burne, Dr. Campbell, Mr. Collingwood, Miss Heywood, Captain Hobbs, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mr. Littlewood, Miss Massey, Miss Moon, Rev. W. E. H. Morris, Messrs. Munby and Pine, Mrs. Redford, Messrs. Ritchie and Stainsby, Dr. Stenhouse, Messrs. Tate, Illingworth (Hon. General Secretary), and H. J. Wilson (Chairman).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Rev Dr. Burns, Messrs. Bryden and Duthie, Dr. Glascott, Messrs. Jones, Knowles, Hopkinson, Peel, Councillor Plummer, Messrs. Reynolds and Sergeant, Sir T. T. Sharm, The Mayor of Salford, Mr. Wyatt, and the Hon. Local Secretary.

At this meeting, which lasted over an hour, many of the necessary details in connection with the Conference were arranged, in regard especially to the handbook, the prizes for exhibits, the chairmen of the meetings, &c., &c.

A great deal of business was got through at these two meetings, owing to the shipshape and clear arrangements made by the Hon. General Secretary; and the zeal shown by the Local Committee was a great incentive to the General Committee, and augurs well for a most successful Conference. We shall keep our readers well informed on the subject.

COLLEGE OF TEACHERS OF THE BLIND.

In our last number we referred to the formation of this Association, that has been established for the purpose of improving the qualifications of Teachers in Schools for the Blind.

The Second meeting of the General Council was held on November 1st, at the office of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W. There was a large gathering, and much enthusiasm and interest and unanimity were shewn by those present in this new and important departure. The following attended the meeting:—Miss Austin, Miss E. M. Bainbrigge, Miss Blott, Mrs. F. J. Campbell, Miss L. Douglas Hamilton, Miss Foakes, Miss Moon, Miss H. C. Russell, Miss B. Taylor, Rev. T. Barnard, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Rev. H. T. G. Kingdon, Rev. Barton Mills, Dr. F. J. Campbell, Dr. Eichholz, Dr. Walford, Major Skinner, Messrs. W. P. E. Barnes (Hon. Sec.), H. D. Black, Guy Campbell, B. P. Jones, W. H. Illingworth, J. Laupmann, Littlewood, Maddocks, Norwood, Pearson, Pine, Stainsby, W. E. Taylor, Tate, and H. J. Wilson (chairman). Letters of apology for non-attendance were received from Miss E. R. Scott, Capt. Towse, V.C., and Messrs. Brockhurst, Collingwood, W. H. Dixon, W. Robertson, A. J. Story, H. M. Taylor and John T. Taylor.

The chairman made a few introductory remarks and expressed his pleasure at seeing such a representative gathering, because as much collective wisdom as possible was necessary in the initial stage, in order to start the College on safe and wise lines. He also stated that he had found that there were many misconceptions of the nature and object of the College, and explained that it was simply an Association, formed at the suggestion of Dr. Eichholz, for the purpose of improving, by examination, the qualifications of teachers in the Schools for the Blind. In fact an examining body analogous, in this respect, to the College of Preceptors and the National Frœbel Union.

The following regulations were approved and adopted after considerable discussion, and ordered to be printed and sent to the Board of Education and to every School for the Blind in the United Kingdom, and to all the Council Schools for the Blind

RULES.

1. That a Board of Examiners be appointed for the purpose of conducting the examination of Teachers of the Blind.

2. That the Examiners be recognised experts in the subjects in which they examine Teachers.

3. That Examiners be paid travelling and other expenses from the funds of the College.

4. That in compulsory subjects the examination be conducted by not less than three Examiners.

5. That the examinations be open for all Teachers of the Blind.

6. That the following be eligible to sit for examinations:—

(a) Candidates holding an Elementary Teachers' Certificate or its equivalent.

(b) Candidates who have passed any examination qualifying as Uncertificated Teachers.

(c) Candidates who hold Certificates of the National Frœbel Union.

(d) Candidates otherwise recognised as Teachers by the Board of Education.

(e) Such other Teachers as may be accepted by the College.

7. That examinations be conducted in the following:—

(A) Compulsory subjects:—

1. Theoretical knowledge of Braille, Grades i and ii.

2. Practical knowledge of Braille, viz:—To read fluently by touch or by sight, and to write accurately.

3. Practical knowledge of arithmetic for the Blind, and

4. One of the optional subjects to be selected by the candidate.

(B) Optional subjects:—

1. Braille, Grade iii.

2. Moon's system.

3. Braille music.

4. Braille shorthand.

5. Typewriting.

6. History of the Education of the Blind, and
7. Any other subject which may be approved by the College.

8. That candidates having once passed in a subject, need not take it again; but no Certificate will be issued until all compulsory subjects have been passed.

9. That Certificates will be granted by the College, indicating the subjects in which the candidates have passed.

10. That a fee of 21/- be charged each candidate for the first examination, and 5/- per subject for each subsequent examination, if any, with a maximum fee of 10/6.

11. That examinations be conducted at a centre, or centres, to be decided by the College from time to time.

12. That examinations be held at least once a year.

13. That the recognised office of the College be the Offices of the British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W.

It was decided that the first examination should take place at Manchester, about the time of the Conference next July. An executive Council was appointed, to whom it was assigned to make certain arrangements as to the appointment of examiners, &c. It was agreed that the Constitution of the College should be defined, printed and circulated with the rules and regulations.

A donation of £10 10s., to the College, from the British and Foreign Blind Association was announced.

The General Council is to meet at least once a year and the officers are to be elected annually.

After the business of the meeting was concluded, the chairman received an anonymous gift of £14 towards meeting the expenses of the College.

All communications in connection with the College, should be addressed to the Hon. Sec., c/o the British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W.

The General Council was summoned to meet in London, on January 18th, to consider, and to pass, the Constitution of the College, which has been kindly drafted by Mr. W. E. Taylor, of Liverpool, and submitted to a small sub-committee appointed to revise it, if necessary.

NORTH OF ENGLAND UNION OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS AT LIVERPOOL, NOVEMBER 30th, 1907.

Notwithstanding the dense fog which hung over the City, and which caused the absence of many members, November 30th will remain a red-letter day to the above Union, when it was welcomed to Liverpool by the three large and prosperous Institutions for the Blind. The Executive Committee met at noon in the Cornwallis Street Workshops for the Blind. The Quarterly General Committee Meeting was held in the Lecture Hall of the Hardman Street School for the Blind, and the Catholic Blind Asylum in Brunswick Road was open to members of the Union all day.

During the week, the Organising Secretary was most kindly welcomed at the new school for Roman Catholic blind children, Yew Tree Lane, at the Wavertree School for the Blind, and at the Home for Blind children in Princes Park, where she heard "The Trial Scene" from "The Merchant of Venice" most cleverly recited by the pupils. An interesting visit was also paid to Miss Hornby, whose name will always be honoured for her great work in providing books in Braille for the Blind in Liverpool.

The business of the Quarterly Meeting was as follows:—

Mr. F. J. Munby, of York, was Chairman, supported by the Hon. Secretary, Miss Heywood, of Manchester.

The Minutes of the Meeting held at Carlisle on August 31st were read and confirmed.

The Organising Secretary, Miss Edith Wright, reported the work of progress of the Union since that date, which includes the following:—

1.—On the subject of Prevention of Infantile Blindness.

(a) A reply from the Central Midwives Board as to the substitution of the word *shall* for *should* in the Rule E 14, with a promise that this suggestion shall be considered when next the Rules are revised.

- (b) An invitation received from the Association for Promoting the Training of Midwives in London, for representatives and speakers from the Union to attend their meeting in Westminster Town Hall, on December 5th.
- (c) The issue of three Leaflets on this subject, for distribution throughout the six northern counties, namely, No. 1, "Why should Babies be Blind?" (1/3 per 100), by Dr. R. N. Hartley, Leeds. No. 2, "To Parents of Sighted and Blind Children" (2/- per 100), Translated from the German by Miss Schneider. No. 3, "Prevention of Blindness" (2/3 per 100). A reprint from "The Outlook for the Blind."

Copies may be had from the Secretaries to the Union.

- (d) An important meeting held at the School for the Blind at York, many midwives, nurses, and health visitors being invited to tea, to hear Mr. Draper read a telling paper on the importance of their work in the prevention of Blindness. Dr. E. M. Smith, Medical Officer of health for York, also spoke on the value of such meetings. The blind children afterwards gave a concert, an excellent object lesson that forced its way home on the minds of such an audience.

2.—Visits.

- (a) The Organizing Secretary had been invited to speak on behalf of the Union at Huddersfield and Accrington.
- (b) Mr. F. J. Munby, Mr. Norwood, and Miss E. Wright had been present at the Whitby meeting to carry on Mr. Hirst's work there.

3.—The Constabulary Lists of the Blind have now been tabulated in a card index, and form a mine of information about those settled in the North. The

Organising Secretary hopes, by degrees, to add the existing registers of the Blind in the towns and cities, so as to complete as far as possible the record of the six counties,

Mr. Warner (Bradford) proposed, and Mr. Stevenson (Accrington) seconded, and it was resolved: "That the importance of making the notification of birth compulsory be brought to the notice of each Society within the area of the Union, with a request to bring the question before the proper local authorities, and to forward to them copies of the Leaflets."

Mr. W. Ernest Taylor (Liverpool Catholic Blind Asylum) proposed, and Mr. A. Siddall (Rochdale), seconded, and it was resolved: "That it is desirable that this Union be represented on the newly formed College of Teachers of the Blind."

Subsequently, an After Meeting was held, and presided over by Mr. Richard Dart, of the Liverpool City Council, who is a member of two of the local Committees for the Blind, and gave a hearty welcome to the visitors. Apologies for absence were read from the Lord Mayor and the Lord Bishop. There was a large attendance, especially of medical men.

Dr. Nimmo Walker read a valuable paper on Prevention of Blindness, and Dr. C. H. Shears and Dr. K. Grossmann and others took part in the discussion.

Miss Heywood, Hon. Secretary, read a paper on the Provision of Homes for the Blind, especially for the old and infirm of both sexes, and Mr. Priestley (Bradford) gave an Address on the Labour Home for Men in Bradford.

Mr. Thomas Taylor (Liverpool) urged the necessity of Homes for blind women being established, and he hoped steps would be taken to provide one in their city.

The Chairman of the Union proposed a hearty vote of thanks to all in Liverpool for their kind hospitality, and stated that the Union much appreciated the honour of being invited to that city, and of having an opportunity of seeing there the well-organised work for the Blind. The company were then entertained to tea.

A pleasing feature of the day was the recitation of some touching lines of "Welcome to the Union," composed by Lilian Clague, a blind girl at the Hardman Street School.

The result of the visit to Liverpool is the gain of many valuable new members, and the strengthening of the bond of *Union*. The next quarterly meeting will be held at Middlesbrough during the last week in February.

A very enthusiastic and important meeting was held in the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Thursday, December 5th, promoted by the Association for Promoting the Training of Midwives, when His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury presided, and H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenburg was present. The Union was represented by Mr. Illingworth, Superintendent of Henshaw's Blind Asylum; Miss Rayner, from Stockport, and the Organising Secretary. Dr. P. MacDonald, Ophthalmic Surgeon to the York Hospital, and Mr. A. Nimmo Walker, Asst. Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Hardman Street School for the Blind, Liverpool, read excellent papers on the importance of the Training of Midwives in the Care of the Child's Eyes at Birth, as the means of preventing Infantile Blindness, to which about one-quarter or one-third of the Blind of our country are victims.

THE BLINDENLEHRER KONGRESSEN AT HAMBURG, AND VISITS TO GERMAN AND DANISH SCHOOLS FOR THE BLIND.

Captain Hobbs, Chairman of the Music and Education Committee of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, and myself, being appointed delegates to the Hamburg Conference of Teachers of the Blind, deemed it advisable, while on the Continent, to visit

also some of the best Institutions for the Blind in Germany and in Denmark.

Our first visit was to the State Institution at Steglitz, a suburb of Berlin. The pupils here number about 100, and the establishment is divided into, 1.—The Vor Schule, or Junior Department, where the pupils are kept till 12 years of age. 2.—The Secondary Department where the general education is continued till about the age of 20, and 3.—The Industrial Training Department and Workshops. The educational course is arranged in a carefully graded scheme which usually extends over eight years; the School time tables being perfect models of educational curricula.

No expense is spared in the way of providing up to date apparatus, and the Museum contains a most elaborate collection of large and well devised models of buildings, towns, geographical definitions, mills, rocks, bridges, and in fact, everything for which pictures are used in Schools for the sighted to convey information to the pupils. In addition to these models there is a perfect "Zoological Gardens" of stuffed animals, from the lion, tiger, horse, &c., to the dormouse and the housefly, whilst for instruction in Physiology a human skeleton and models of the internal organs, eye and ear, are provided.

The Museum includes ancient and modern devices for blind reading, writing, printing, &c. There is also a capital library of some 6,000 volumes, which is worked on a similar system to our Free Public Libraries. The printing is done exclusively by blind young women. We were sorry to find that blind Teachers are not encouraged, and are rarely employed except as Assistants for Music or Language Teaching.

We were much struck and impressed by the rope and twine making industry, which is carried on most successfully, excellent manufactures being produced, and good wages earned, several men making over a pound a week after a deduction for the funds of the Institution. The products of this Department are almost entirely absorbed by the Army and Navy.

The making of egg packing boxes gives a capital employment to a number of women. With the aid of an ingenious little

frame, they are enabled to make in straw a sectional arrangement which, fitted into a light box, produces a receptacle in which eggs may be safely transmitted by post or otherwise. The work is easily learned, even by unskilled workers. One of the frames and a completed sample box can be obtained from the Director, Herr Matthies, post free for nine shillings.

An ingenious contrivance for drying clothes attracted our attention. It is something like a rope ladder. The "rope" being a fairly strong cord, and the steps light round sticks about 2-ft. 6-ins. long. The cord is slightly untwisted at intervals of about 12-ins., the ends of the sticks inserted, and fixed in place by a brass tack. The arrangement may be made of any length, and hung across the kitchen, yard, or other drying place. The making of these drying lines forms another easy and useful employment for women.

The light Basket-making Department, where young women are again employed deserves notice, some very pretty designs in waste paper, and soiled linen, baskets being turned out with good speed and of excellent shape and workmanship. I may say that this Institution appears to have solved the question of the employment of blind women more satisfactorily than I had previously seen anywhere. In the women's Basket-making Department a machine was in use for splitting and skeining willows, doing in a few minutes what it would take a person a whole day to do by hand. The machine only costs about £5.

The men in the Basket Department were nearly all employed in making white wicker travelling baskets with what are known as "trunk lids." It is surprising what excellent shape they manage to maintain, seeing no gauge is used.

On the pupils reaching the age of 20, they may, if they choose, remain at the Institution and live in one or other of the "Homes," which are built in the extensive and beautifully wooded grounds. Here each person has a room of his or her own, which is provided, along with food—taken in the Common Dining Hall—for the sum of ninepence per day.

The women in these Homes earn from 7/- to 12/- per week. Many of the men make more than £1.

All pupils and workers must put in so many hours per week at gymnastics.

We left the Institution with feelings of deep admiration for its splendid arrangements and possibilities, and greatly indebted to Herr Conrad, who, in the absence of the Director, Herr Matthies, so courteously received and conducted us.

On the following morning we were in Hamburg, and attended the opening Session of the Conference, where, after a speech of welcome from the President and a number of formal greetings, an interesting Paper was read by Herr Matthies on "The Blind from a humanitarian point of view." This Paper had one fault; it was inordinately long, taking nearly one hour to read, with the unfortunate result that the time thus lost was never made up, some of the most interesting Papers being crushed out altogether, or rushed through without comment.

The Papers dealing with "Psychology and the Powers of the Blind to comprehend space and distance," to the discussions on which I had looked forward with deep interest, appeared to evoke but small attention or enthusiasm, whilst a long and dreary "Bericht" on the Statistics of Blindness in Germany had a decidedly soporific effect on those members who did not remember that they had another engagement, or who slipped into the next room to see the Exhibition.

Of course, the question of the "Types" roused the spirit of argumentativeness (this word is almost as long as a Hamburger) but it is expressive—again and again was a vote taken as to whether the discussion should be closed and the next Paper come on, but the Conference was in a "Type war" mood, and those who know anything of Blind Conferences know that no mood can be *waur* than that. Interpoint *v* interline for School Books; charge and counter charge; the Blind in favour of interpoint and the Seeing for interline. Of course, in the end, the Sighted won, because they were 75% of the Conference, and so made an easy majority; but it seemed to me a strange thing that interpoint should be condemned simply because it was hard on the eyes of seeing Teachers, for that was practically the only argument the seeing Teachers could adduce.

Delightful excursions and entertainments were notable features of this Conference.

The "Festessen" which consisted of some Music and a dinner at the Fährhaus on the shores of the Great Alster, was an event which, I venture to think, will never be forgotten by any who had the privilege of attending it. Britons, Germans, Swedes, Danes, Frenchmen, Swiss, Italians, Dutch, Russians, Japanese, Roumanians, all foregathered as brothers and sisters—comrades in arms for the great cause—and enjoyed one of the most pleasurable evenings it has ever been my lot to share in. A menu fit for a King was provided, and the tables, with their profusion of flowers, glass, and silver, formed a delightful picture. Toast followed toast—what a clinking of glasses was there!—and all was hearty good nature. The Toast to the British Delegates was replied to in a bright and happy manner by Miss Hobbs (who accompanied us) and who speaks German like a native. She must have been highly gratified by the applause which followed her speech.

One afternoon was devoted to a visit to the Hamburg America Liners lying in the Elbe, to a general survey of the great port, and to pleasure sailing.

On the Wednesday afternoon the Conference went *en masse* to visit the "Blind Asyl" in Alexanderstrasse, of which Herr Merle, the President of the Conference, is Director. We were received in the Large Hall, where a delightful Concert of vocal and instrumental music was given by the pupils. The first part of the Concert consisted of a number of part songs by the children. Their singing was simply magnificent. I have never heard anything approaching the purity of tone and accuracy of intonation of those children's voices, in the whole of my experience—it was a genuine treat. We were next conducted over the establishment. The playground accommodation is very limited, as is the accommodation generally for the 100 pupils, but we learned that a scheme is on foot for building a new Institution.

We were then taken by special cars to the Homes for Blind men and women in Breitenfelderstrasse. Here an excellent tea

was provided for us, and we had liberty to wander over both the male and female sides of the establishment, and to note the care bestowed upon, and the comforts enjoyed by the inmates. These homes are for blind folk who are too old for, or unable to work. Each inmate has a separate room, and absolute freedom to go out and come in. No work is expected of them, but some do a little to pass the time. Here is the Hamburg Central Lending Library, containing some 6,000 volumes, mostly up to date popular literature. The terms of subscription are similar to those of the London Lending Library. The Readers have to pay the carriage; but as yet they have got no privilege in Germany as regards Braille literature in the post. Returning to the centre of the City by special cars, we had just time to get ready for the Grand Concert which was given entirely by blind Artistes in the Convent Garden Concert Hall. It was a great pity that this Entertainment did not receive the patronage from the General Public which it deserved, as it was distinctly high class.

On the Thursday evening we left Hamburg for Copenhagen, where we arrived on Friday evening. What a charming City this is! The Royal Blind Institution is pleasantly situated on the outskirts of the City, and accommodates 100 pupils, from 10 to 20 years of age, who are all paid for by the State at the rate of £65 per head per annum. Mr. Plesner, the Director, received us most cordially, and spared no pains to explain everything to us. The School is well equipped, the Workshops being on the top floor, all round a fine quadrangle. One side of this floor is devoted to rope making, but this industry is not found to be remunerative in Copenhagen. We saw some excellent boot-making. Only the smartest manual workers are employed in this department for obvious reasons. Needlework is not developed here to such an extent as I think is desirable, and Mat making, both here and in Germany, is scarcely attempted.

Gymnastics and drill are brought to great perfection, and the general School curriculum is of a high order. After 20 years of age the pupils are allowed to take a 3 years course of training in any sighted workshop suitable to their trade, in order to

acquire further skill and self reliance, the whole expenses being borne by the State.

We did not see the Preparatory or Kindergarten School, which is situated on the other side of the island, as our time did not permit of our going there. We visited the Workshops and the Saleroom in another part of the town; also the new home for women at Mariedalsveig. This is a charming Institution, and far surpassed anything I have ever seen in the way of placing blind women, as nearly as possible, on a level with the sighted. The home accommodates 30 inmates, each of whom has a separate bed sitting-room which she keeps clean and in order herself; in fact, practically all the domestic work is done by the inmates, including the washing and getting up of the linen. No woman is admitted here who is not intelligent, fairly well educated, and able and willing to earn sufficient to provide her own clothing. An allowance of about 4/- per week per head is made by one or other of the funds at the disposal of the Committee for food, &c.

The whole place possesses an atmosphere of happy, industrious contentment. The Matron, Miss Krab, is an estimable lady, who is justly proud of her unique establishment, which raises the tone of its tenants to such a standard as requires to be seen to be understood or believed. The workroom is as bright and sunny as the workers. Some of the women's rooms display great artistic taste in their furnishing and arrangement; the window curtains of pretty lace, made by the occupant, and various knick-knacks neatly arranged shewing that Blindness is not necessarily a bar to a taste for beauty. Many of these little domiciles contain a piano, harmonium, or other pieces of furniture which are the private property of the inmate; and in some cases women with adjoining rooms "chum," and turn the one room into a joint bedroom, and the other into a sitting room. Herr Moldenhawer, late Director of the Parent Institution, President and originator of this ideal Home of industry, must be indeed proud of the real success of the scheme which the kindness of his great heart and his practical interest in the Blind devised. Next year he celebrates his golden wedding and

Jubilee in Blind work. As we grip his hand in farewell we heartily wish him long life and prosperity.

What Denmark and Copenhagen have done for Blind women, why should not England do ?

W. H. ILLINGWORTH,

*Superintendent of Henshaw's
Blind Asylum, Manchester.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

National Hospital,

Queen's Square, W.C.

December 31st, 1907.

DEAR SIR,

As paragraph No. 21 in the October issue of "The Blind" gives an impression that credit has been claimed on my behalf which is not due to me, I beg your permission to make a short statement of the events that preceded the granting of reduced postage to the Blind.

I suppose that the idea of applying for reduced postage is very old indeed, and was probably originated neither by Mr. Illingworth nor myself, but the manner of applying, so successful in this case, was, I think, new as applied to the object. When the late Postmaster, Lord Stanley, was approached by the B. and F.B.A. it was realised that the case was prejudiced by former decisions, and it was agreed that that form of application only made matters worse. After much correspondence on the subject, an organisation was started by "Progress," when I was Editor, and loyally supported by its readers, whereby Viscount Valentia, Mr. Buckmaster, and other Members of Parliament were (at the time of the last Parliamentary Election) enlisted in the service of the Blind. The Postmaster General, approached

in this influential way, sent for the Secretary of the British and Foreign Blind Association, and kindly went thoroughly into the claims of the Blind. The happy ending of the business is known to us all. From this simple statement of easily ascertainable facts you will see that the Blind have to thank some of themselves for the result, although, perhaps, the direction of the campaign was, to some extent, in the hands of the Editor of "Progress."

Yours faithfully,

GODFREY H. HAMILTON.

The Editor,

"The Blind,"

Note by Editor.—We print the above letter at the request of Mr. Hamilton. We were conversant with the action taken by "Progress," Lord Valentia, and others, but we simply confined our remarks to the words printed in the last report of the British and Foreign Blind Association, viz.: Mr. Hamilton "was the originator of the idea of applying for a reduction of the postal rates." In justice to Mr. Illingworth, we felt that we ought to refer to his efforts in 1896, and not allow the statement to pass unnoticed.

The Blind.

VOL. III.

No. 42.

APRIL 20TH, 1908.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before June 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. The Editor much regrets that the notes *re* Institutions, and other matters, have been unavoidably crowded out of this number.

2. The following is the list of Examiners appointed by the Council of the College of Teachers of the Blind, for the Examinations to be held at Manchester, on the 26th and 27th of June next :—

Miss L. Douglas-Hamilton, Member of the Executive Council of the British and Foreign Blind Association.

Barnard, Rev. T., M.A., 2nd Class Lit. Hum., Headmaster, College for the Higher Education of the Blind, Worcester.

Hill, Rev. St. Clare, M.A., Principal, School for the Blind, Leatherhead.

Illingworth, Mr. W. H., Superintendent, Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Old Trafford, Manchester.

Pearson, Mr. A., B.A. (Lon.), Teacher at the Royal Normal College, Upper Norwood, S.E.

Stainsby, Mr. H., General Superintendent and Secretary, General Institution for the Blind, Birmingham.

Taylor, Mr. H. M., M.A., Fellow of the Royal Society, and Fellow of Trinity College Cambridge.

3. Mr. Victor Spanner, A.R.C.O., of the Royal Normal College, has passed the Licentiate Examination of the Royal Academy of Music in Pianoforte Playing, and Miss Alice Biffin in Singing. Mr. Thomas Moyes has passed the Associate Examination of the College of Organists. A few weeks before the Examination, Mr. Moyes went to Scotland, to compete for an organ appointment. He was unanimously chosen, and entered upon his duties at Erskine U.F. Church, Stirling, February 2nd.

4. A Gardner Scholarship, tenable at one of the Universities, will be vacant in October next. Intending candidates must make application before the 30th of June next, on forms to be obtained from the Secretary of Gardner's Trust, 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

5. The inaugural meeting of the Superintendents' Association was held on February 28th, at 7.30 p.m., at the Institution for the Blind, Albion Street, Leeds. The Meeting was presided over by the Rev. St. Clare Hill, and there was a good attendance. We understand that it was a most successful gathering, and most important and interesting subjects were discussed, especially one brought forward by Mr. Illingworth on "Work and Waste in Blind Basket Workshops."

6. Mr. Guy M. Campbell, Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, S.E., wishes to tender his grateful thanks to four readers of the "Blind" who kindly forwarded him Nos. 28, 29 and 34, thus enabling him to complete and bind Volume II. As two of the readers kindly forwarded copies without any name or address, this is the only way Mr. Guy Campbell can express his appreciation of the courtesy extended to him.

7. The Board of Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, in execution of the provisions of the Board of Education Act, 1899, s. 2 (2), ordered on January 14th last, that the part of the endowment of Gardner's Trust for the Blind which is

held solely for educational purposes may be called "Gardner's Educational Trust for the Blind," and consists of—

(a) The two ninth parts of the net income of the Charity which are applicable in instructing the poor Blind in the profession of music ;

(b) The two other ninth parts of the same income which are applicable in instructing the poor Blind in suitable trades, handicrafts and professions, other than the profession of music.

This part of the Trust, therefore, now comes under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education, and the yearly accounts of this portion have, in future, to be rendered to that Board, instead of to the Charity Commissioners, as hitherto.

The report of the Trust, for 1907, appeared in the "Times" and "Morning Post" of January 11th, and is also printed in a booklet together with the names and addresses of the pensioners.

The report refers to the marked activity in many directions on behalf of the blind during 1907, especially in regard to new and enlarged Workshops, all of which have received substantial grants from the Committee, who are convinced that there is more likelihood of blind workpeople being able to earn their own living when permanently employed at one of the Workshops for the Blind than when working under other conditions.

The report goes on to say : "It will be remembered that when the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893, came into operation, the Committee decided forthwith to give no further assistance to blind children under the age of 16, as by the said Act the School Authorities (now the Local Education Authorities), became responsible for the provision of suitable elementary education for all such children in their districts, and received full powers for providing the same. This action on the part of the Committee liberated funds which are now used for the instruction of blind persons above the school age in the professions and trades by which it is hoped they may be able to earn their living. During the past year the sum of £4,805 (as shown in the following financial statement, items 1 and 4), was thus expended on the all important object of ensuring for the beneficiaries a reasonable prospect of success in their life work.

The following disbursements have been made during the year under various headings :—

1. £4,122 towards the board and tuition of 108 scholars at Colleges and Institutions, including four Scholarships of £60 each tenable at the University of Oxford.
2. £2,860 to 225 pensioners. There are 27 pensioners at £20, 68 at £15, and 130 at £10 a year.
3. £2,276 to 37 Institutions and Societies towards the cost of new or enlarged buildings, general purposes, &c.
4. £683 towards the fees for the instruction of 66 pupils above the age of 16 at various Schools and Workshops.
5. £311 to 61 individuals for assistance in starting or carrying on their trades as pianoforte tuners, basket makers, mat makers, chair caners, &c.

The Committee think it desirable to lay stress on the fact that the amount of dividends which had accumulated during the necessary proceedings in the Court of Chancery to settle the scheme for the Trust prior to 1882 is now practically exhausted, and as a considerable portion of the ordinary income of the Trust must be allocated to annual scholarships, grants, and pensions, it will be impossible in the future to make large donations for building purposes unless gifts are received that can be thus utilised.

The Committee think it necessary once more to draw attention to the fact that the applications for pensions, many of which are most urgent and deserving, are far in excess of the vacancies.

It is with much regret that we have to announce the resignation of Sir Gardner Engleheart, K.C.B., who has been a member of the Committee for more than eleven years, and has always taken the greatest interest in the work of the Trust

8. It may interest our readers to know that at the Certificate Examination, held on December 4th, the following questions were set for sighted teachers in Schools for the Blind, but this action on the part of the Education Department will not interfere

in any way with the work of the College of Teachers of the Blind.

1. Explain some of the special duties attaching to the instruction of blind children during the first year of school attendance.
2. What are Braille Contractions? Illustrate some of their advantages. By what steps would you correct their disadvantages?
3. Sketch a course of simple practical Arithmetic for blind children twelve years of age.
4. In what way should a scheme of instruction for blind children provide for exercises to develop activity, freedom and independence of movement?
5. To what extent, and for what reasons, would you prohibit in school the use of a remnant of sight by a blind child.
6. Discuss the value of Music in the training of blind pupils, (*a*) as part of the general instruction of all pupils, and (*b*) as a possible means of livelihood in special cases.

9. The Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, 258, Tottenham Court Road, London, W., was founded in 1856 by Miss Gilbert, the blind daughter of Bishop Gilbert of Chichester. It is the largest workshop for the Blind in London, 76 blind persons being employed, and 22 old blind workers receiving pensions. A sermon in aid of the funds of the Association was preached on January 19th, at St. George's Church, Bloomsbury, by the Rev. Barton Mills, a member of the Committee.

10. Those who would find comfort in the reflection that blindness does not detract—during childhood at any rate—from the enjoyment of social pleasures, should have been present at the entertainment and tea given to the blind children from the London County Council Schools on January 17th, by the "Westminster Gazette" Christmas Fund, and the Hoxton Schools

Society, at Essex Hall, Strand, They had been driven there in breaks, not one of the least joy-bringing items of the programme, especially for the few elder boys, to whom belongs the much-coveted privilege of sitting in a row behind the driver, and feeling all the pride and distinction belonging to that happy eminence.

The tea-tables this year were especially bright and gay, with bunches of red and white flowers on the plates, and puzzle boxes of varied hues scattered over the table. And this brilliant effect was not wasted, for many of the children, though unable to read printed matter, and, therefore, obliged to attend a Blind Centre, have sufficient sight to enable them to appreciate bright lights and brilliant colours.

The interval between the arrival of the guests and the beginning of the concert was filled up by the children in struggles to wrest from the boxes their secret, and to discover the hid treasure they contained. Some of the boys preferred to cut the Gordian knot, and with impatient fingers rent the boxes into pieces; but the majority, by force of quiet perseverance, won their way to the heart of the mystery, where sugar-plums rewarded them.

Much pleasure and appreciation were manifested during the musical entertainment that followed. One old friend, who sings to his own accompaniment comic songs such as the soul of a child loveth, was greeted by loud cheers the moment his name was uttered; but all the performers were warmly received, and the music, both vocal and instrumental, greatly enjoyed. It was introduced by a carol beautifully sung from the gallery by the boys of Linden Lodge School.

At 4 p.m. came tea. A very early dinner, which most had been too excited to pay much heed to, and a long drive in the fresh air had produced large capacities for enjoying the pleasant meal.

Then followed the event which, out of the whole programme, is the one which fills the adult onlookers with most admiration for the brain which had to devise and the heart which cared to understand. For every single child out of those 290 had a

present—not given to it at hazard, chosen at random—but carefully selected to suit and please its individual tastes and needs, and labelled with its name. And the person who alone had the necessary knowledge to effect all this is Miss Rose Petty, whose days are full to overflowing with other work.

As the children left the room, more food, both for mind and body was given; an orange to beguile the homeward way, and a roll of Braille, the latter the gift of the Sunbeam Mission, as were also the puzzle boxes. Then came the drive home under the stars, for the weather had been most propitious, and the happy day was at an end.

The Braille roll contained the following verse by Ella Wheeler Wilcox in simple Braille:—

If you would help to make the wrong things right,
Begin at home! There lies a lifetime's toil.
Weed your own garden fair for all men's sight
Before you plan to till another's soil.

And the following by A. A. Proctor in contracted Braille:—

See the rivers flowing	Watch the princely flowers
Downwards to the sea,	Their rich fragrance spread,
Pouring all their treasures	Fill the air with perfumes
Bountiful and free;	From their beauty shed;
Yet to help their giving	Yet their lavish spending
Hidden springs arise;	Leaves them not in dearth,
Or, if need be, showers	With fresh life replenished
Feed them from the skies.	By their mother earth.

Give thy heart's best treasure,
From fair nature learn;
Give thy love and ask not,
Wait not a return.
And the more thou spendest
From thy little store,
With a double bounty
God will give thee more.

11. The Home Teaching Society for the Blind (London), held its Annual Meeting on March 13th at the house of the new President, by his kind permission, at 34, Portland Place. Viscount Midleton presided for the first time, the late President having been his lamented father. Some interesting information as to the extending work of the Society was given, and the speakers after Lord Midleton included the Bishop of Barking,

Mr. Leslie Sandford, and the Rev. G. C. Pope, the two latter gentlemen being themselves blind. A vote of thanks to Lord and Lady Midleton was passed on the motion of Sir Reginald Macleod.

12. The Christmas Festival of the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind was held on Wednesday, January 22nd. There was a large company, which included the Right Hon. Lord Strathcona, who occupied the Chair, Miss Howard, the Right Hon. Viscount Selby, Right Hon. Lord Howard de Walden, the Mayor and Mayoress of Battersea, Mayor and Mayoress of Deptford, Mayor and Mayoress of Bermondsey, Mayoress of Croyden, and many others.

All departments of the work, Scholastic, Musical, Technical and Physical were visited.

The Organ Recital given by Mr. William Laurie, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.O., was followed by a short Concert. The programme included selections from West's Cantata, "The Story of Bethlehem," by Mr. William Cleverley, Mr. Stuart Moncur, and Choir; a pianoforte duet, entitled "Imperial Fantasia," composed for the occasion by Mr. Watling, a student of the College, in honour of Lord Strathcona, and played by Masters Austin and Kershaw; a Trio, "Say Dainty Dames," Westminster Glee Club; Part Song, "Love wakes and weeps;" a Duet for two pianos, "Valse Carnavalesque" (Chaminade), by Mr. S. Magill and Mr. V. Spanner, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.O.; two Songs, "My Nannie's Awa'" and "Macgregor's Gathering," sung by Mr. Stuart Moncur, a former pupil of the College, who kindly came from Glasgow; and a Cantata, "Christmas Scenes" (Cowen), by the Children's Choir.

After the Concert, Lord Strathcona said it gave him great pleasure to be present. He had had an opportunity of seeing the excellent work that had been done—and was being done—by this Institution. He had always been in sympathy with all who were deprived in any way, but he had never had occasion to feel and think so much as he had that day, and all who saw the work of the Institution felt that it deserved every support. A first-rate

education was given to those who, but for the opportunities afforded by the College, would not be able to make their way in life. It had given him the greatest pleasure to listen to the admirable Concert, and who would have supposed for a moment that the performers were in any way deprived? One of the former pupils, Mr. Stuart Moncur, intended making a Concert tour in Canada, which he had the honour of representing in this country. He would not feel that he was going amongst foreigners or strangers, but amongst people who had the same feeling of loyalty and devotion to the Crown as those in the city of London, or any portion of the United Kingdom. The Institution had assuredly been doing a great and good work, and those who had an interest in it were not forgetful of what was being done to train pupils to go forward in the world, and make their way in it independently of others. They knew many trained there who occupied important and honourable positions. One student of the College, who went to Canada, was now carrying on with his brother a large pianoforte business. in which a hundred thousand dollars was invested.

The expenses of the College amounted to more than its receipts, and also there was a mortgage of £15,000 on the property, but he hoped the time would soon come when it would be free from debt. In conclusion, Lord Strathcona regretted that his daughter was unable to be present to unveil the Christmas Tree, but his grand-daughter had come in her place. He thanked them for the opportunity of being present to visit the College, and heartily wished increasing prosperity to the Institution.

Miss Howard then drew the cord which released the flags that screened a beautiful Christmas Tree. For many years the tree has been kindly provided by Mr. William Tebb, of Rede Hall, Horley.

Lord Howard de Walden briefly proposed a vote of thanks to Lord Strathcona. Lord Selby seconded and said that if there was anyone who could take an interest in an Institution which was for the benefit of the Blind, it would be a man who had led a strenuous life like Lord Strathcona. The Institution assisted

helpless boys and girls to become capable men and women. This was a great work, because those who were incapable of taking their part in the world had the greatest privation. Lord Strathcona had referred to the difficulties under which the work was carried on, and he would like to emphasize this point. It had been carried on for 35 years, and nothing but the zeal and energy of Dr. Campbell would have made it succeed, and in this connection he must not forget to mention Mrs. Campbell and the Staff. After appealing for donations to meet the deficit of the last three years, he added that he thought State aid would come before very long. If it was incumbent on the State to provide for the education of those who could see, surely it ought to provide for the education of the Blind.

13. We regret to have to announce the death of Baroness von Kranichfeld, the blind Secretary to the Queen of Roumania. She was an English woman, by name Miriam Gardner, and went totally blind in her 50th year. She was a good linguist, and recently learnt Roumanian and Esperanto. In the "Guardian," of January 29th, page 188, there appeared from her pen an article on Carmen Sylva's City for the Blind, which we read with much interest. The Queen was much attached to her, visiting her during her last illness, and attending her funeral in person.

THE SECOND TRIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE BLIND.

A meeting of the Committee appointed to organise the next International Conference on the Blind, to be held from July 27th to August 1st, at Manchester, took place at the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, on February 8th, at 2 p.m.

Lunch was kindly provided at the Institution at 1 p.m., when there were present several members of the Committee of the Institution, including Mr. Arthur L. Lowe, the Chairman, the Archdeacon of Birmingham, and Dr. Gaul. During lunch, Mr. F. W. Priest, F.R.C.O. rendered an interesting programme, some items being given on the organ and some on the dulcitone,

the selections being almost entirely by blind Composers. There were present at the meeting Miss Moon, Dr. Campbell, Messrs. Collingwood, Munby, Pine, Plater, Stainsby, Tate, Illingworth (Hon. Secretary), and H. J. Wilson (Chairman). Letters of regret for non-attendance were read from Rev. T. Burns, D.D., Rev. St. Clare Hill, and Messrs. Frew Bryden and Jones.

After the minutes of the last meeting had been read and confirmed, the Chairman reported that he had had an interview with Lord Derby, and that his Lordship had kindly consented to preside at the opening meeting of the Conference, at 2 p.m., on July 27th.

The questions about to be circulated in regard to Mr. Platt's paper on Music; Miss Massey's on Pensions; and Mr. Mulholland's, on Ireland, were carefully reviewed, and additional questions suggested for the three papers.

The following arrangements have been provisionally made ;
 July 26th (Sunday)—Dedication Service in St. Thomas's Church
 (Henshaw's Blind Asylum Chapel), 6.30 p.m.

„ 27th (Monday)—2 to 5.30 p.m., Welcome by Lord Derby, the President, to Delegates. "The Housing of the Blind, &c.," by Miss I. M. Heywood, Founder and Hon. Sec. of the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society. Opener of discussion: Dr. Moon, of Philadelphia. In the evening a Reception by the Lord Mayor of Manchester, at the Town Hall.

„ 28th (Tuesday) — 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., "The Technical Training and Employment of the Blind in the United States," by Mr. Green, Superintendent of St. Louis Institution for the Blind, Missouri, and "Commercial Education in Canada," by Dr. Fraser, Superintendent of Halifax Institution for the Blind, Nova Scotia. 2 to 5 p.m., "Pension Schemes for the Blind; their value and abuse," by Miss E. F. Massey, Manchester. Opener of discussion: Mr. Henry J. Wilson. In the evening, a Dinner, given by the Governors of Henshaw's Blind Asylum and a Kinderspiel Performance by the pupils.

- „ 29th (Wednesday)—Will be spent at Liverpool. 11 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., “Recreation for the Blind,” by Mr. W. Littlewood, Headmaster of Wavertree School for the Blind, Liverpool. For the afternoon, visits to the Schools and Workshops for the Blind, and in the evening a Reception by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, at the Liverpool Town Hall.
- „ 30th (Thursday)—10 a.m. to 1 p.m., “The Blind and their Education in Japan,” by Mr. Tadasu Yoshimoto, of Japan, and “The Technical Training and Employment of the Blind in France,” by M. Maurice de la Sizeranne, of Paris. 2 to 5 p.m., “Psychology of Blindness and the Care of Blind Children from one to five,” by Mr. J. M. Ritchie, Henshaw’s Blind Asylum, Manchester. Opener of discussion: Mr. W. H. Dixon, M.A. In the evening, a Picnic.
- „ 31st (Friday)—10 a.m. to 1 p.m., “Music,” by Mr. H. E. Platt, Teacher of Music at the General Institution for the Blind, Birmingham. Opener of discussion: Mr. Edward Watson. 2 to 5 p.m., “The State of the Blind in Ireland, and How their Condition may be Improved,” by Mr. Mulholland, Mission to Outdoor Blind, Belfast. In the evening, a trip down the Ship Canal, and a Reception by the Mayor of Salford.
- Aug. 1st (Saturday)—10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Review of Progress since the last Congress, and Closing Functions.

The minutes of the meetings of the Local Committee were read, which show how hospitably the members of the Conference will be entertained, including receptions by the Lord Mayor of Manchester, and by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, and a dinner to be given by the Governors of Henshaw’s Blind Asylum.

It was felt that readers of papers at the last Conference should have an opportunity of reporting on the progress in the matters referred to in their respective papers, and accordingly Saturday morning is set aside for this purpose.

A prospectus of the Conference has been sent to every known Institution for the Blind in the world.

COLLEGE OF TEACHERS OF THE BLIND.

The Executive Committee of this College held a meeting at 11 a.m. on January 18th, at the office of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, in London, when there were present Dr. and Mrs. Campbell, Miss L. Douglas-Hamilton, Miss Garaway, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. W. H. Illingworth and B. P. Jones, Rev. H. T. Kingdon, and Messrs. W. Littlewood, S. Maddocks, A. B. Norwood, A. Pearson, H. W. P. Pine, H. Stainsby, W. E. Taylor, W. P. E. Barnes (Hon. Registrar), and H. J. Wilson (Chairman).

The Rev. T. Barnard wrote regretting his inability to be present.

It was agreed that the first examination should be held at Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester, on Friday and Saturday, July 24th and 25th, subject to the Governors of the Institution kindly consenting to such arrangement.

It was further agreed that the examiners should be appointed annually, but should be eligible for re-election, and that the following seven examiners be appointed for this year, with power to add to their number for additional subjects, viz. :—Rev. T. Barnard, Miss L. Douglas-Hamilton, Rev. St. Clare Hill and Messrs. W. H. Illingworth, A. Pearson, H. Stainsby and H. M. Taylor, F.R.S.

It was decided to adopt a certificate similar to the one issued by the College of Preceptors.

Mr. H. M. Taylor, F.R.S., was appointed a member of the Executive Committee. Several names were submitted of those well known in connection with educational and "Blind" questions, who were to be asked to act as Vice-Presidents. The Chairman was requested to approach Hon. Arthur M. Kinnaid, and ask him to act as Hon. Treasurer.

A draft of the Constitution and Regulations of the College, kindly prepared by Mr. W. E. Taylor, was carefully considered paragraph by paragraph and amended, and it was agreed to present it, as amended, to the Council for adoption.

The Chairman moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Taylor for his kindness in drawing up a draft of the Constitution, and it was carried unanimously.

The meeting lasted until 1.35 p.m.

At 2.30 p.m. there was a meeting of the Council, when there were present :—Miss Austin, Miss E. M. Bainbrigge, Dr. and Mrs. and Mr. Guy Campbell, Mr. W. H. Dixson, Miss L. Douglas-Hamilton, Miss E. Everett, Miss M. Garaway, Mr. G. H. Hamilton, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mr. W. H. Illingworth, Mr. B. P. Jones, Rev. H. T. Kingdon, Messrs. W. Littlewood, S. Maddocks, T. H. Martin, Rev. Barton Mills, Messrs. A. B. Norwood and Pine, Miss E. C. Russell, Messrs. H. Stainsby and W. E. Taylor, Miss B. Taylor, Dr. W. G. Walford, Messrs. W. P. E. Barnes (Hon. Registrar), and H. J. Wilson (Chairman).

Letters regretting their inability to attend the meeting were received from Rev. T. Barnard, Mr. Collingwood, Miss Moon, and Mr. J. T. Taylor.

The Chairman, having reported an anonymous gift of £14 to the funds of the College and also a grant of £10 10s. from Gardner's Trust for the Blind, gave a brief account of the proceedings at the meeting of the Executive Committee held in the morning, and thanked Mr. Taylor for his kind services in drafting the Constitution of the College.

He then called on Mr. Taylor to point out and explain the amendments made in the draft, of which a copy had been sent to each member of the Council. After this explanation, the Constitution and Regulations, as amended, were approved unanimously on being put to the meeting, and the Hon. Registrar was directed to have copies printed, after revision by a small Sub-Committee, and to send them to Institutions for the Blind and persons interested in the Blind.

It was resolved that a copy of the Constitution be sent to the Board of Education, together with a list of the examiners, and that the Board be requested to officially recognise the certificates issued by the College. The Constitution as finally approved is as follows :—

1. The name of the Association is The College of Teachers of the Blind.
2. The Office of the Association will be situate in London.
3. The objects for which the College is established are :

a) To raise the status of Teachers of the Blind by forming them into an organised body, with a recognised position as specialists in the work of education.

(b) To give Teachers of the Blind the opportunity of submitting their qualifications to the scrutiny and judgment of an accredited body, for the purpose of examination, so that upon proof of fitness they may receive a certificate of competency.

(c) To encourage the training of Teachers of the Blind.

(d) To raise the tone and character of the instruction of the Blind generally.

(e) To diffuse among the Members, by means of a Library, Lectures, or otherwise, information on all matters connected with the education and the mental, physical, moral and social condition of the Blind, and to encourage interchange of thought and opinion thereon.

(f) To receive donations and subscriptions from persons desirous of promoting the objects aforesaid, or any of them, and to hold funds in trust for the same.

(g) To promote the welfare of Teachers of the Blind and the interests of Education of the Blind generally, and to do all such lawful things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of any of the above objects. PROVIDED also, that the College shall not grant, or profess to grant, diplomas or titles, other than the title of Member or Officer of the College, and that all Certificates of fitness granted by the College shall, on the face of them, express that they are granted by the College on the report of examiners, or an examiner, by whom the examination was made on behalf of the College, or on the faith of a Certificate or other evidence which the College considers sufficient.

4. The income and property of the College whencesoever derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the College, and no portion thereof shall be paid or

transferred directly or indirectly by way of profit to the Members of the College or to any of them, Provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent any payment in good faith, of remuneration to any officers or servants of the College, or to any Member of the College or other person in return for any services actually rendered to the College.

5. True accounts shall be kept of the sums of money received and expended by the College and the matter in respect of which such receipts and expenditure take place, and of the property, credits, and the liabilities of the College, and, subject to any reasonable restrictions as to the time and manner of inspecting the same that may be imposed in accordance with the regulations of the College for the time being, shall be open to the inspection of the Members. Once in every year the accounts of the College shall be examined and the correctness of the balance sheet or statement of accounts ascertained by properly qualified auditors.

6. The Members of the College shall consist of :

(a) Those who, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Council of the College, shall satisfy the Committee of Examiners by examination that they possess the qualifications entitling them to receive the Certificate of the College.

(b) Members of the Council of the College.

7. The following shall be the first Members of the Council :—

Adler, Miss, Vice-Chairman of Special Schools Sub-Committee,
L.C.C.

Armitage, Miss A. S., Executive Council, British and Foreign
Blind Association.

Austin, Miss, Secretary and Librarian, National Lending Library
for the Blind.

Bainbrigg, Miss E. M., Secretary, Home Teaching Society for
the Blind.

Barnard, Rev. T., M.A., Head Master, College for the Higher
Education of the Blind, Worcester.

Barnes, Mr. W. P. E. (*Hon. Registrar*), Secretary, British and
Foreign Blind Association.

- Black, Mr. Herbert D., Teacher, Royal Normal College.
- Blott, Miss, Private School for the Blind.
- Bosanquet, Colonel B. T., Chairman, Leatherhead School for the Blind.
- Braun, Mrs. von, Executive Council, British and Foreign Blind Association.
- Brockhurst, Mr. A., Hon. Secretary, Walsall Society for the Blind.
- Burt, Mr. M., Hon. Secretary, Cardiff Institute for the Blind.
- Campbell, F. J., LL.D., Officier d'Académie, Principal, Royal Normal College.
- Campbell, Mrs. F. J., Hon. Lady Superintendent, Royal Normal College.
- Campbell, Mr. Guy M., Vice-Principal, Royal Normal College.
- Campion, Hon. Mrs., Barclay Home and School for Blind Girls, Brighton.
- Collingwood, Mr. C. M., Superintendent, West of England Institution for the Blind, Exeter.
- Deacon, Mr. Henry Wade, President, Liverpool School for the Blind.
- Dodsworth, Sir Matthew, Bart., Bristol Asylum for the Blind.
- Dixson, Mr. W. H., M.A.
- Douglas-Hamilton, Miss L., "Eyes to the Blind" Society; Executive Council, British and Foreign Blind Association.
- Everett, Miss M., Asst. Hon. Secretary, Sunbeam Mission (Branch for Blind Children).
- Foakes, Miss, Head Mistress, East London School for the Blind.
- Garaway, Miss, Resident Lady Superintendent, Linden Lodge School for the Blind, L.C.C.
- Hall, Mr. Joseph, Hon. Secretary, Swansea Institution for the Blind.
- Hamilton, Mr. G. H., Executive Council, British and Foreign Blind Association.
- Henry, Mr. A., Executive Council, British and Foreign Blind Association.
- Heywood, Miss I. M., Hon. Secretary, Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society, and Hon. Secretary of the North of England Union of Societies.

- Hill, Rev. St. Clare, M.A., Principal, Leatherhead School for the Blind.
- Hodges, Mr. G. H., Cardiff Institute for the Blind.
- Hollins, Mr. A., F.R.C.O.
- Howden, Mr. Douglas A., Chairman of the Executive Council of the British and Foreign Blind Association.
- Hunter, Mr. T. W.
- Illingworth, Mr. W. H., Superintendent, Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester.
- Jones, Mr. B. P., Superintendent, Schools for the Blind and Deaf, L.C.C.
- Kingdon, Rev. H. T. G., M.A., Superintendent, Asylum for the Blind, Bristol.
- Kinnaird, Hon. Arthur M. (*Hon. Treasurer*), 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W.
- Laupmann, Mr. J., M.A.
- Littlewood, Mr. W., Schoolmaster of the School for the Blind, Wavertree, Liverpool.
- Maddocks, Mr. S., Superintendent, Sheffield School for the Blind.
- Marston, Rev. H. J. R., M.A.
- Martin, Mr. T. H., Secretary, Swiss Cottage Institution for the Blind.
- Merrick, Mr. W. Percy, Executive Council, British and Foreign Blind Association.
- Mills, Rev. Barton, M.A., Association for the General Welfare of the Blind, Tottenham Court Road.
- Moon, Miss, Hon. Secretary, Society for Embossing in Moon's Type for the Blind, Brighton.
- Munby, Mr. F. J., Hon. Secretary, Yorkshire School for the Blind, and Chairman of the North of England Union of Societies.
- Norwood, Mr. A. B., M.A., Superintendent, Yorkshire School for the Blind.
- Pearson, Mr. A., B.A., Teacher, Royal Normal College.
- Pine, Mr. H. W. P., Superintendent and Secretary, Midland Institution for the Blind, Nottingham.
- Priestley, Mr. M., Manager, Bradford Institution for the Blind.

- Ranger, A. W. G., M.A., D.C.L., Chairman of the Finance Committee of the British and Foreign Blind Association.
- Robertson, Mr. Wm., House Governor of the Royal Victoria School for the Blind, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
- Russell, Miss H. C.
- Scott, Miss E. R., Editor of the "*Weekly Summary*."
- Skinner, Major, Chairman of Special Schools Sub-Committee, L.C.C.
- Stainsby, Mr. H., General Superintendent and Secretary, The General Institution for the Blind, Birmingham; Chairman, Book and Technical Committee, British and Foreign Blind Association.
- Story, Mr. A. J., Head Master, North Staffordshire School for the Blind.
- Tate, Mr. W. H., Member of Committee, Bradford Institution for the Blind.
- Taylor, Rev. A., Secretary, British and Foreign Bible Society.
- Taylor, Miss B., Hon. Secretary, Sunbeam Mission (Branch for Blind Children).
- Taylor, Mr. H. M., F.R.S., Executive Council, British and Foreign Blind Association.
- Taylor, Mr. John T., I.S.O., Chairman of the Education Committee, L.C.C.
- Taylor, Mr. W. Ernest, Hon. Treasurer, Catholic Blind Asylum, Liverpool.
- Temple, Mr. A. L., Executive Council, British and Foreign Blind Association.
- Tennant, Mr. John, Trustee and Member of the Committee of the Indigent Blind Visiting Society.
- Towse, Captain E. B. B., V.C., Vice-Chairman of the Executive Council of the British and Foreign Blind Association.
- Walford, Dr., Swiss Cottage Institution for the Blind.
- Warren, Mr. J. C., M.A., Hon. Secretary, Midland Institution for the Blind, Nottingham.
- Wilson, Mr. Henry J. (*Chairman*), Secretary, Gardner's Trust for the Blind.
- Wright, Miss E., Hon. Secretary, Workshops for the Blind, Wakefield, and Organising Secretary of the North of England Union of Societies.

8. Additional Members of the Council may be elected at the Meetings of the Council or by the Committee hereinafter mentioned.

9. All persons who by their official position, or who by their support, whether financial or otherwise, may assist the objects of the College, shall be eligible to be elected as Members of the Council.

10. The business of the College shall be managed by a Committee consisting of not more than twenty-one nor less than fifteen Members of the Council.

11. The Committee shall be elected for three years, as hereinafter provided. The first members of the Committee shall be the following .—

Mr. H. J. Wilson (Chairman); Hon. A. M. Kinnaird (Hon. Treasurer); and Mr. W. P. E. Barnes (Hon. Registrar).
Rev. T. Barnard, M.A. Dr. Campbell.
Chairman of the Special Schools Sub-Committee, L.C.C. (Major Skinner).

Miss L. Douglas-Hamilton.	Mr. S. Maddocks.
Miss Garaway.	Mr. A. B. Norwood, M.A.
Rev. St. Clare Hill, M.A.	Mr. A. Pearson, B.A.
Mr. W. H. Illingworth.	Mr. H. W. P. Pine.
Mr. B. P. Jones.	Mr. H. Stainsby.
Rev. H. T. G. Kingdon, M.A.	Mr. H. M. Taylor, F.R.S.
Mr. Littlewood.	Mr. W. E. Taylor.

12. A third, or the number nearest to one-third of the Members of the Committee, shall retire annually, but shall be eligible for re-election. The first and second retirements, unless the Committee shall agree amongst themselves, shall be determined by ballot. In the third and every subsequent year the Members retiring shall be those who have been longest in office calculated from the date of their last election. The election shall be by the votes of the Council.

13. Any Member of the Council may nominate any other member for election to the Committee. Every such nomination shall be sent to the Registrar not later than fourteen days before the Annual Meeting, except in the case of retiring Members of

the Committee, who may be nominated at the Meeting. The List of the retiring Members of the Committee, who are eligible for re-election must also appear on the Agenda.

14. The election of the Committee shall take place at the Annual Meeting of the Council.

15. The Committee shall meet at least once a year, and at such times as may be necessary.

16. Any casual vacancy occurring in the Committee by death, resignation, or otherwise, may be filled up by the Committee, but any person so chosen shall continue in office only until the time for the nomination of the Members of the Committee to fill up the vacancies.

17. The Committee shall appoint an Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Registrar, and shall choose Examiners from time to time, and such other officers as they may from time to time deem desirable, and shall fix their several duties and the tenure of their office; a resolution signed by all the Members of the Committee shall be as valid and effectual as if passed by a duly called Meeting of the Committee.

18. The Committee shall provide a common Seal, shall pass regulations for its use, and shall have power to use the said Seal for any of the purposes of the College, as they in their discretion may think fit. The Seal shall remain in the custody of the Chairman of the Committee.

19. All actual outlay of the Committee incurred on behalf of the College by order or by sanction of the Committee shall be defrayed out of the funds of the College.

20. The Committee shall cause Minutes to be made of all proceedings at any Meeting of the Council or of the Committee, and shall cause a Register to be kept of all the Members of the College, with full particulars of the circumstances of their becoming Members of the College. Seven days' notice at least of any Meeting of the Committee shall be given to the Members of the Committee.

21. At a Meeting of the Council fifteen shall form a quorum, and at a Meeting of the Committee five shall form a quorum.

22. An Annual Meeting of the Council shall be held every year at such time and place as shall in the opinion of the Committee be most convenient for the Members, and notice of such Meeting shall be sent to the Members at least a month beforehand. At such Meeting the Chairman of the Council, the Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Registrar shall retire, but may offer themselves for re-election for the ensuing year.

23. A fee will be required from each Candidate for examination. The amount of such fee to be determined by the Committee from time to time, but the fee shall be as low as is compatible with efficiency.

24. The month of the examination and the places where it will be held shall be announced by the Committee at least six months previous to the date of the examination, except in the case of the examination for the year 1908 when a four months' notice may be given.

25. The Committee shall publish a syllabus of the subjects in which the examinations will be held, and shall upon requisition furnish any intending Candidates with a list of books suitable to be read for the purpose of gaining the knowledge required.

26. Every Candidate for examination shall give three months' notice of his or her intention to present themselves for examination, and shall be required previously to produce satisfactory testimonials of character and attainments, and it shall be within the power of the Committee to refuse to examine any Candidate who may propose to present himself or herself, without assigning any cause or reason.

27. The Rules and Regulations set out in the Schedule hereto shall be observed by the Committee until altered or amended by the Council.

28. No Members except those who have paid an annual subscription of 5s. to the College, or have made a donation of £5, shall be entitled to vote, or to hold any office in connection with the College.

29. Each Member shall notify to the College some place as his registered address, or address for service, and any notice

may be served by the College on such Member by sending it through the post in a prepaid letter addressed to him at his address for service. Until such notification shall be given, the office of the College shall be deemed the address for service of such member. Any notice sent by post shall be deemed to have been served when the letter containing the same would be delivered in the ordinary course of post, and in proving such service it shall be sufficient to prove that the letter containing the notice was properly addressed and put into the Post Office.

SYLLABUS OF EXAMINATIONS, 1908.

The Examination this year will be held at Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Old Trafford, Manchester, on Friday and Saturday, July 24th and 25th, 1908.

Candidates for examination shall give three months' notice of their intention to present themselves for examination, and shall be required previously to produce satisfactory testimonials of character and evidence of attainments, and it shall be within the power of the Committee, without assigning any cause or reason, to refuse to examine any candidate who may propose to present himself or herself.

Application for admission to the Examination must be made to Mr. W. P. E. Barnes, Hon. Registrar to the College, British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W.

1. The Examination will be open to Teachers of the Blind,
2. The following are eligible to sit for Examination :—
 - a.* Candidates holding the Elementary Teacher's Certificate, or its equivalent.
 - b.* Candidates who have passed any Examination qualifying as Uncertificated Teachers.
 - c.* Candidates who hold the Higher Certificate of the National Froebel Union.
 - d.* Candidates otherwise recognised as Teachers by the Board of Education.
 - e.* Other Candidates whose status as teachers may satisfy the College.

3. Examinations will be conducted in the following :—

a. COMPULSORY SUBJECTS :

1. Theoretical knowledge of Braille, Grades I, and II.
2. Practical knowledge of Braille, viz., to read fluently by touch or by sight, and to write accurately.
3. Practical knowledge of Arithmetic for the Blind.
4. Practical teaching of the subjects Nos. 1, 2, and 3.
5. One other subject to be selected by the candidate from the following Optional Subjects.

b OPTIONAL SUBJECTS :

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. Moon System. | 2. Braille Music. |
| 3. Braille Shorthand. | 4. Typewriting. |
| 5. The History of the Education of the Blind. | |
| 6. Any other which may be approved by the College. | |

60 per cent. of marks will secure a "PASS," and 85 per cent. "HONOURS" in any subject.

4. Candidates having once passed in a subject need not take it again, but no certificate will be issued until all compulsory subjects have been passed.
5. Certificates will be granted by the College, indicating the subjects in which the Candidates have satisfied the Examiners, specially recording those in which "HONOURS" have been obtained.
6. Examinations will be conducted at a Centre or Centres, to be decided by the College from time to time.
7. A fee of 21s. will be charged each Candidate for the first Examination, and 5s. for each subject at each subsequent Examination (if any), with a maximum fee of 10s. 6d. This fee must be enclosed with the application for Examination. If the Candidate should be refused admission the fee will be returned.
8. The recognised Offices of the College are the Offices of the British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W.

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS.

Candidates may be Examined for a "Pass" or "Honours" in each subject.

1. Theoretical knowledge of Revised Braille, Grades I. and II.
A paper of ten questions will be set on the above. The papers will be printed in Braille or Letterpress, and Candidates must state on the Entrance Form which is preferred. The answers to be given in Braille or Script.
2. Practical knowledge of Braille, Grades I. and II.
Candidates will be required to read fluently by touch or by sight, and to write correctly. The matter to be written, including Punctuation and Composition marks, will be dictated.
3. Practical knowledge of Arithmetic for the Blind.
Ten arithmetical examples, including the working thereof, will be dictated to the Candidates, who shall set them out on Taylor's Octagonal Board and Pegs. The arithmetical signs used must be those recognised by the College, and published by the British and Foreign Blind Association.
4. Practical Teaching of the above.
Candidates must be prepared to give a Class of Blind Children one lesson on Braille and one on Arithmetic. The subject will be selected by the Examiners, and notified to the Candidate one day before the lesson is given.

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS.

1. Moon's System of Reading.
Candidates must read fluently a passage from a standard book in Moon's Type selected by the Examiner, and give evidence of his ability to teach the principles of the type.
2. Braille Music.
Candidates will be required :
 - a. To read and write a passage in Braille Music Notation.
The passage to be written will be dictated.
 - b. To dictate a passage from Braille Music in terms of the ordinary sighted Staff Notation.

3. Braille Shorthand.

Candidates will be required to write in Shorthand a passage dictated by the Examiner, and subsequently to transcribe the same into Typewriting, Handwriting, or Braille. A speed of 60 words per minute will be required for a "PASS," and 100 words per minute for "HONOURS."

The Birmingham System of Embossed Shorthand, as published at the Royal Blind Asylum and School, West Craigmillar, Edinburgh, is the system recommended to be used.

4. Typewriting.

Candidates will be required :

a. To transcribe into Typewriting a set passage of Braille or printed matter. Marks will be awarded in this paper for :

1. Accuracy. 2. Speed. 3. Quality of Touch.

b. To transcribe from confused manuscript in Braille or Script :

1. A short Literary Article.

2. A private or business letter.

3. A specimen of tabulated work.

c. To address an envelope and a post-card, and to write matter on the back of the latter.

5. History of the Education of the Blind.

A paper of 20 questions will be given on the various systems, past and present, for teaching the blind : their origin and history.

Ten questions must be answered.

Information bearing on Question V. (Optional Subjects) can be obtained from the following books :—

Blindness and the Blind, by W. H. Levy,

Published by Chapman & Hall, 193, Piccadilly, London, W.

The Education of the Blind, by James Gall.

Reprinted by Edward Shardlow, St. Martin's, Leicester.

The Education and Employment of the Blind, by T. R. Armitage, M.D.

Published by Harrison & Sons, 59, Pall Mall, London; and
by the British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great
Portland Street, London, W.

The Primary Education of the Blind, by H. Stainsby; and

The Secondary Education of the Blind, by W. H. Illingworth.

These two papers were read at the Edinburgh Conference,
1905. For loan of the papers apply to H. Stainsby,
General Superintendent and Secretary, The General
Institution for the Blind, Edgbaston, Birmingham; and
to W. H. Illingworth, Superintendent, Henshaw's Blind
Asylum, Old Trafford, Manchester.

The Higher Education of the Blind.

Paper by the Rev. H. J. R. Marston, M.A., read at the
Conference on the Blind, London, 1902.

Published by Henry J. Wilson, Secretary, Gardner's Trust
for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster,
London, S.W.

Guillé's Instruction and Amusements of the Blind,

Articles on "The Blind," in the Standard Encyclopædias.

PROPOSED NEW UNIONS FOR THE BLIND.

Minutes of meeting held in the rooms of the Gardner Trust,
53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., on Tuesday the 10th
March, 1908, at 2 p.m.

After consultation with various Superintendents and others,
Dr. Campbell convened a preliminary meeting for Tuesday
afternoon, the 10th March, to consider the advisability of forming
a Union or Unions in the other counties of England similar to
the Northern Union of Institutions, Societies and Agencies for
the Blind. This meeting was attended by the following ladies
and gentlemen:—Miss Bainbrigge, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mr.
T. H. Martin, Rev. Barton Mills, Miss Moon, Miss Peto, Mr.
Stainsby, Mr. John Tennant, Mr. H. J. Wilson, Dr. Campbell,
Mrs. F. J. Campbell, and Mr. Guy Campbell.

Letters expressing interest and regret for inability to be present were received from:—Miss Adler, Rev. T. Barnard, Mr. Bower, Hon. Mrs. Champion, Mr. Collingwood, General Chads, Mr. Joseph Hall, Miss Heberden, Miss L. Douglas-Hamilton, and Mr. Walford.

Mr. Wilson was unanimously elected to be the Chairman of the meeting, and Mr. Guy M. Campbell was asked to act as Hon. Secretary.

After discussion it was agreed: That this meeting considered it advisable that Unions on similar lines to the North of England Union of Institutions, Societies and Agencies for the Blind should be formed throughout the entire country.

Before the question of area was considered, a letter from Mr. Collingwood to Dr. Campbell, dated the 9th March, was read, indicating districts into which Mr. Collingwood thought the country could, with advantage, be divided.

After careful discussion it was suggested that the following counties, with London, be formed into a Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union, viz.: Essex, Hertford, Middlesex, Berks., Hants., Sussex, Kent and Surrey.

It was agreed: To recommend that a Western Counties Union should consist of Gloucester, Wilts, Dorset, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, and that Mr. Collingwood should be requested to act as Convener for any meetings in connection with the formation of such an Union.

South Wales, with Monmouth, was suggested for a South Wales Union, and Mr. Joseph Hall was to be requested to act as Convener.

North Wales, with Cheshire and Shropshire, was suggested for a North Wales Union, and Mrs. Young was to be requested to act as Convener.

Hereford, Bucks, Oxford, Worcester, Warwick, Northampton, Leicester, Stafford, Derby and Nottingham, for a Midland Counties Union, and Mr. Stainsby was requested to act as Convener.

Suffolk, Norfolk, Lincoln, Rutland, Huntingdon, Cambridge and Bedford were suggested for an Eastern Counties Union, and

Mr. H. M. Taylor, F.R.S., of Cambridge, was to be requested to act as Convener.

The meeting then proceeded to consider a draft constitution which had been prepared by Mr. Guy Campbell exactly on the lines of the North of England Union.

It was agreed: That a General Meeting of representatives of all the Blind Agencies within the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties area should be called for Saturday, the 2nd May, to confirm or amend the following draft constitution, and consider further details of organisation.

DRAFT CONSTITUTION.

1. The Union shall be called "The Union of Institutions Societies and Agencies for the Blind in the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties."

2. The area of this Union shall be Essex, Hertford, Middlesex, Berks, Hants, Sussex, Kent and Surrey.

3. The objects of the Union are to promote such intercourse among existing agencies and individuals interested in the welfare of the out-door Blind as may lead to the organisation, unification, and extension of work on their behalf, and to the formation of Societies in districts where there are none existing, to the end that no blind person may be left uncared for. Particular attention will be devoted to:—

The Aftercare of Pupils leaving Institutions.

Employment of Men and Women.

The Care of the Sick, Aged, and Helpless,

The Visitation of the Blind in Workhouses and in their own Homes.

4. The Officers of the Union shall consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, and a Central Committee, with Chairman, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Secretary. The Central Committee shall consist of one or two representatives of each Society belonging to the Union subscribing not less than one guinea to its funds, such representatives being appointed annually by their respective Societies. Other persons interested in the Blind may also be co-opted.

A very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Wilson for presiding terminated the proceedings.

NORTH OF ENGLAND UNION OF INSTITU- TIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

The quarterly gathering of the Union took place at Darlington on Saturday, March 7th, 1908.

In view of the approaching Annual Meeting and Conference to be held at Newcastle in May next, Darlington was conveniently central for the more northerly delegates to attend, and Newcastle was in strong force. All the three Institutions were represented, viz.: The Royal Victoria School for the Blind,—The Workshops for the Adult Blind—and the Home Teaching Society.

It was also hoped that more local interest might be aroused in that district—in the cause of the Blind—for there are many in County Durham; and that the work of Mr. Niederhausern in those parts for the last 30 years, might be strengthened and invigorated, and also that Mr. Billam in Darlington itself, who, during the last three or four years, has gathered the Blind together for meetings, might be encouraged and helped by intercourse with fellow workers.

The Executive Committee met at noon, in the Friends' Adult School, and at 2.30 in the same place, the General Committee met for their Quarterly Meeting.

The Minutes of the Liverpool meeting on November 30th, 1907, were read and agreed to, and the Organising Secretary reported from the Executive minutes and her log book, what had taken place since—which included the following points:—

1. Four more Societies have affiliated themselves with the Union, those of Blackburn and Darwen, Whitby, Huddersfield and Keighley—and Barrow reports progress with their new venture. Visits were reported to Doncaster, Darlington, Leeds and Barnsley.
2. A letter was read from Lord Durham (Vice-President), regretting his absence, and one from Mrs. Greg, Bolton, as

to the difficulties of Pensioners drawing from several Societies.

3. A New Year's Letter had been sent to all delegates from Mr. Munby (Chairman), drawing attention to the powerful article in the "Times" on Xmas Day, 1907, on "The Administration of Charity" in connection with the Blind, and enclosing quotations from it, urging Co-operation and Union, "the kind that the Union is already engaged in." He also called attention to the question of considering the areas of responsibility in the care of the Blind around each Society or Institution, and to the possibility of ascertaining how far these extend, so that the Union may find out where there are districts, as yet untouched, left in the gaps between; and discover how the work can be undertaken or fulfilled therein.

4. Small sectional maps are being prepared by the Organising Secretary, corresponding with the lists of the Blind given in that particular Police Division, which ere long will be at the service of those who wish for them.

Already some of the Agencies, working in the centre of one of the Constabulary Divisions, have undertaken to include under their care the Blind in the districts of that area. Others are making enquiries. A circular on this subject will be issued shortly.

5. The year for which Miss E. Wright had pledged herself, to endeavour to carry out the pioneer work for the Union, expired on March 1st.

It was resolved and carried unanimously, that she be asked to accept the post for another year. To this she acceded, thanking all her colleagues for their kindness and loyal support and help in the first year's hard, but most inspiring work.

6. The demand for, and sale of, the leaflets on Prevention of Blindness have been very satisfactory.
7. Miss E. Wright afterwards attended the Annual Meeting of the Royal Victoria School for the Blind at Newcastle.

8. The Annual Meeting and Conference will be held this year in Newcastle, on May 15th, and possibly partly on the 14th also. Arrangements are in the capable hands of Mr. William Robertson, Royal Victoria School for the Blind. The Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Councillor W. J. Sanderson, who is also the President of the Home Teaching Society for the Blind will preside, and papers will be read and discussed on two subjects at the afternoon Session :—

No. 1, by some leading Newcastle Medical Men, on some forms of Preventible Blindness. (Title to be given later).

No. 2. Employment for Blind Women.

The meeting promises to be a very attractive one, and will include visits to the Workshops for the Adult Blind, Breamish Street, and to the charmingly situated School at Benwell Dene.

On Friday afternoon, March 6th, the day before the quarterly gathering, the Mayor of Darlington held a Public Meeting in the interests of the local Blind, with the result that a Committee was formed in the room, and a small Society set on foot to visit and care for the Blind. The speakers were Mr. F. J. Munby, Mr. W. H. Tate, Mr. Niederhausern and Mr. Siddall. Miss Lister, of Bradford, sang—as well as Mr. Siddall.

Many influential people attended, and there is good hope that the real interest aroused may prove for the good and betterment of the Blind in that populous part of County Durham. The Free Library there already supplies books in Braille.

INSTITUTE FOR MESSAGE BY THE BLIND.



The above, with the exception of the nurse marked by a cross, are all Blind operators, who have been

The Blind.

VOL. III.

No. 43.

JULY 20TH, 1908.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before September 19th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

This number is already larger than any one hitherto issued, and, therefore, the Editor's remarks are very brief, viz: *That the Manchester Conference begins on July 27th, and he hopes that everybody who reads these lines will make a special effort to be present.*

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. Mr. Douglas Close Richmond, C.B., has been elected a member of the Committee of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, in the room of Sir Gardner Engleheart, K.C.B., who recently resigned his place on the Committee.

2. Mr. Mulloy, of Balliol College, Oxford, has obtained a Diploma in Economics with distinction.

3. Mr. H. C. Warrilow, the blind organist of St. Barnabas Church, Oxford, recently played a piece by Mr. Alfred Hollins, at a concert given at the Oxford Town Hall, and was the only performer who received an encore. He responded with a piece by Mr. Wolstenholme, who is also blind, and has been giving a series of recitals on the organ at All Saints' Church, Norfolk Square, London.

4. Captain Peirson Webber has recently given in Southam four County Council lectures on profitable poultry management. The lectures were most successful and well attended. At the 1st there were 70 present, at the 2nd, 3rd and 4th, about 130. At the conclusion of the last lecture a hearty vote of thanks was given to Captain Webber in most commendatory terms, and reference made to his success as a lecturer being due to his enthusiasm, thorough knowledge of his subject and excellent powers of expression. It will be remembered that Captain Webber went for a course of study to the University College, Reading, and took a certificate in poultry culture.

5. Mrs. Starey, the well-known Hon. Secretary of the Somers Town Blind Aid Society, has removed from 53, Hilldrop Road, to 51, Belsize Avenue, London, N.W.

6. Four blind speakers took part in the annual meeting of the Newport Blind Aid Society, on June 22nd, viz.: the Revs. G. Pope, J. Swinnerton, and G. George, and Mr. W. H. Dixon.

7. Mr. James Moore, who has held the post of organist at Bottesford Church for over 48 years, has had to resign on account of ill-health. He was educated at the Nottingham Institution for the Blind and obtained his appointment in November, 1859. The Church at Bottesford is a very beautiful one on the Nottingham and Grantham line, about four miles from Belvoir Castle. Mr. Henry Rowed has just completed 50 years, as organist of Millbrook Church, Southampton. We think his services, as a blind organist, must be a record one as regards the period during which he held the post.

8. Miss Blott, who has kept a private school for blind children for a quarter of a century, has left 30, St. Charles Square, North Kensington, and removed to 27, The Crescent, Barnes, S.W., where she will be glad to receive an invalid Blind Child, or a young man who is not only blind but suffering from some other bodily affliction and requires constant care and attention. The house is roomy and pleasantly situated, facing the common.

9. A serious fire took place in April last at the business premises of Mr. J. J. Plater, the well-known blind basket manufacturer, of Birmingham. Luckily, owing to the prompt action of the fire brigade, the fire was soon brought under control, and did not extend to a large shed and the yard, where there were tons of inflammable material in the shape of withies and cane. If this had happened, the destruction of the factory would have been complete, and therefore, whilst sympathising with Mr. Plater in his loss, we must congratulate him that the worst, which seemed inevitable at one time, did not happen. It is needless to say that Mr. Plater, with his happy temperament and ever ready resourcefulness, determined that the fire should not interfere with his large business, and the employees resumed work almost at once.

10. The following books have recently been prepared in Moon's type and can be obtained at the Society for Embossing Books in Moon's Type, at 104, Queen's Road, Brighton:—
 "The Corner Stone," in 5 vols., by David Lyall; "The Scent of the Roses," by Mary Wilkins; "Snow Bound," by Whittier; "A Wonder Worker of Science" (Burbank); "The Perfect Tribute" (To President Lincoln); "The Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Canyon of Arizona"; also "The Liturgy," "The Collects," "The Confirmation Service," "The Burial Service" and "The Holy Communion," in Tamil. In hand, "Boscobal," 10 vols., by Harrison Ainsworth, also 'A Christmas Carol,' in 2 vols., by Dickens.

11. Can anyone kindly supply Miss E. Wright, Northgate, Wakefield, with a copy of "The Blind" for October, 1907, so as to complete a set for the Northern Union of Societies for the Blind? That number is out of print.

12. A new scheme for the administration of The Blind Man's Friend Charity (better known as Day's Charity) has been recently framed by the Charity Commissioners. There are three representative trustees (one appointed by Hetherington's Charity,

one by the Clothworkers' Company and one by Gardner's Trust) and five co-optative trustees, of whom the first are Major-General Hill, Mr. Stuart Johnson and Mr. Edward H. Bailey. Pensioners must be blind persons of not less than 21 years of age, resident in the United Kingdom, and who have not during the period of two years next preceding the time of their appointment received poor-law relief. The pensions are of £20, £16, and £12 a year. The Charity was founded by a legacy of £100,000 from the late Mr. Charles Day (of the firm of Day & Martin, blacking-makers), his will bearing date May 1st, 1834. A scheme was settled for the administration of the Charity by the High Court of Chancery, on March 15th, 1842.

13. In September last, Mr. Snell, F.R.C.S., Hon. Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Sheffield Institution for the Blind, invited the midwives of Sheffield to meet him at the Royal Infirmary, and impressed upon them the importance of attention to the eyes of infants soon after birth. He told them that out of 333 inmates received into the Sheffield School for the Blind since its opening, no less than 136, or more than 40 per cent. had been there as a consequence of disease occurring during the first few days of infancy, and he endeavoured to enlist the help of the midwives in preventing the disease of purulent ophthalmia.

14. The Annual Meeting of the Royal Normal College for the Blind was held May 13th, at Seaford House. Among those present were Viscount Selby, The Archdeacon of London, Sir James Crichton-Browne, Sir William Mather, Mr. Bonar Law, M.P., Dr. W. H. Cummings, Mr. W. S. Seton-Karr, Lady O'Hagan, Mrs. Westlake, Miss Mundella and others.

Lord Howard de Walden, President of the College, occupied the Chair, and in his opening remarks referred to the great loss the College had sustained in the death of the Right Hon. Jas. A. Campbell, its late Chairman, and one of the founders of the College. Archdeacon Sinclair, in moving the first resolution, said: "We all sympathise with the cause of the Blind, but in this Institution the compensation is so great, and the treatment

is so admirable and wise, and the spirit of enthusiasm and affection and love is so wonderfully brought out, that the terrible loss which has been sustained by those who are its inmates is as little felt as it could be under the circumstances." Sir James Crichton-Browne made a most interesting speech on blindness and the training of the Blind, which we hope to print in the next number. Sir William Mather and Mr. Bonar Law, who also spoke, expressed the hope that the State would find it possible to come to the assistance of Institutions like the College which now have to depend on voluntary contributions. A vote of thanks to Lord Howard de Walden was moved by Lord Selby and seconded by Dr. Cummings.

15. Two meetings have been held of the National Committee for the Employment of the Blind, viz.: one at the Institution for the Blind, Leeds, at 10.30 a.m., on February 29th, when the important subject of Government Orders was discussed and correspondence with Departments, and tabulated statements of respective costs of Parcel Post Protectors were presented. The other at the Institution for the Blind, Nottingham, at 2 p.m., on June 13th, when the Blind Aid Bill was considered, and the report of the Committee to be made to the Conference, was finally amended and approved. At both meetings the attendance was very good, and the members were kindly entertained at lunch.

16. A meeting of the Executive Council of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held on July 4th, at 2.30 p.m., at the Office of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, when there were present Miss L. Douglas-Hamilton, Miss Garraway, Dr. Campbell, Messrs. Illingworth, Jones, Littlewood, Pine, Stainsby, and H. J. Wilson, Chairman. Several apologies for non-attendance were reported. Mr. Illingworth gave a report on the coming examination, which showed that 33 candidates (18 females and 15 males), will sit for the examination to be held on July 24th, at 2 p.m., at Henshaw's Blind Asylum, through the kindness of the Board of Management. All the examiners will be present and take part in the work of examination.

The designs of the certificate were submitted, and one was adopted, with many thanks to Miss Stainsby for her designs. The official seal was shown to the Committee and approved. The draft report of the formation of the College to be submitted to the Conference was read and approved.

The next meeting was arranged for October 3rd, at 2.30 p.m., at the office of Gardner's Trust.

17. The Rev. A. H. Cooke, M.A., Oxon., Quethiock Vicarage, Liskeard, Cornwall, prepares the blind sons of gentlemen for the Universities' entrance and other preliminary examinations. Mr. Cooke was for some years an assistant master. Full particulars as to terms, &c., can be obtained on application to him.

18. The tramways committee of the City Council at Bradford have arranged that blind people are permitted, on production of a certificate, to travel at any time on the tramcars at half the ordinary fares.

19. The annual report of the National Lending Library for the Blind, 125, Queen's Road, Bayswater, W., for the year 1907, shows remarkable progress and development in all directions. In fact, the accommodation for the books is not now sufficient and additional rooms have had to be taken in the same house. The library has now been at work for 26 years and increasing in usefulness year by year. We well remember the late Mrs. Dow, then Miss Howden, calling on us, explaining the proposal which she and Miss Martha Arnold had for starting a library and asking for assistance from Gardner's Trust. The Committee approved the scheme, made a donation of £25 to purchase books, and thus was founded this most useful Institution. The library now consists of 9,000 volumes and over 500 are added yearly. Miss Austin must be gratified that her energy and zeal as secretary in the interests of the library have borne such remarkably successful results during the past year. The general fund received £259 in 1907, as against £131 in 1906, the Arnold Carriage Fund £60 against £33, and the Dow Blind Writers' Fund £67 against £29.

These figures speak for themselves and are proofs of hard, honest, continuous work. The number of books received and dispatched—averaging 150 per day—has necessitated the engagement of an extra packer. A new Braille corrector has also been appointed. During the year 134 new readers joined, as well as 11 new Institutions and 5 new Free Libraries. Twelve Municipalities now subscribe on behalf of the Blind in their neighbourhood, viz.: Dundee, Belfast, York, Preston, Barrow-in-Furness, Salisbury, Eastbourne, Walsall, Portsmouth, Camberwell, Greenwich, and West Ham. Over 1,000 Braille and Moon volumes, of which 275 are in revised Braille, have been added to the library during the past year, chiefly by voluntary writers, of whom there are now 230; 50 having joined last year. Over 90 volumes were added by writers for the Dow Fund, to whom £54 were paid for their labours. A copy of the “special instructions” for the arrangement and writing of books for the library can be obtained on application to the Secretary. Braille catalogues are now issued, price 2/6 each.

20. Miss Garrett has been appointed superintendent of the Phoenix Home for Blind Women, 44, Alma Square, London, N.W., in the room of Miss Freudenthal, who has resigned.

21. The Colne Blind Prevention and Aid Society has only been in existence for four years, but the Report for 1907 shows that the Blind in that town are well cared for and that special attention is given to the prevention of blindness. An experienced lady, engaged by the Mayor, visits the newly-born children and is brought into close touch with the midwives. The Society is affiliated to the Northern Union.

22. We have been sent a copy of the seventh annual balance sheet of the London and Provincial Sick Benefit Society for the Blind. This Society is kept up by working men amongst the Blind, many of whom work at the Institution in Tottenham Court Road. The contribution is threepence per week, and the benefit ten shillings per week for twelve weeks, and five pounds

at death. The Secretary is Mr. J. Smith, 17, Aylesford Street, Grosvenor Road, Pimlico, S.W. The sick and death payments in 1907 amounted to £44, and on December 29th the members numbered 39.

23. On Saturday, April 4th, there was a large gathering at the London County Council Residential School for Elder Blind Girls, at Elm Court, West Norwood, S.E., when Major Skinner, Chairman of the Special Schools Sub-committee, L.C.C., presided. The classes were at work, and there were drill exercises, gymnastics, music and recitations. After tea, which was kindly provided for the guests, the prizes were distributed by the chairman's wife, the Lady Kathleen Skinner, who also spoke a few kind, sympathetic words. There was an excellent exhibition of work executed by the pupils, and the guests spent an interesting and enjoyable afternoon.

24. The "Outlook for the Blind" has entered on its second year, and we cordially wish it all prosperity in the future. It was an experiment, and has been very successful in its primary object of disseminating interesting information about the Blind and of bringing the superintendents of the Institutions for the Blind, and those interested in the Blind, into closer relationship with one another. The Editor, Mr. Charles F. F. Campbell, has worked hard to make the magazine a success, and we can realize from our efforts in the production of "The Blind" what an amount of labour such a publication entails. Mr. Campbell, however, is apparently handicapped seriously from want of sufficient financial support. Beyond a grant from the Massachusetts Association, he has had to raise a very considerable sum himself to cover the expenses of publication. We hope, therefore, that many, if not all, of the Institutions in the United Kingdom will support Mr. Campbell in his praiseworthy efforts, by subscribing 1 dollar and 12 cents for the four quarterly numbers of the magazine, post free, during the current year. We believe that they will not be disappointed in so doing, but that they will realise more fully the many activities on behalf of the Blind in the United States of America.

25. In the 14th annual report of the Victorian Association of Braille writers, it is stated that there are now 153 working members; that 27 persons were taught to transcribe Braille last year, and that "nine tons" of books were distributed during the year. The Rev. T. H. Goodwin, who is 83 years of age, transcribed 12 volumes during the year and, in addition, sewed them and prefaced them for the binder. We believe we are correct in stating that Mr. Alfred Hirst was the first to introduce Braille into Australia, namely, at Melbourne, in 1881. He must be much gratified at the result of the seed then thoughtfully and carefully sown.

26. M. Billeton, a blind man, has just been made organist of the cathedral of Arras.

27. Owing to the action of the Association Valentin Haüy, the question of reduced postage for the Blind in France is being considered by the Ministry.

28. The first annual report of the "International Association of Blind Musicians" has been published in Braille, in German, and Esperanto. From this it appears that there are 48 members, of whom one hails from Algeria and one from Cochin China. It is proposed that the Society shall publish a journal in Esperanto. The next annual report will be in English, and Esperanto, unless the English members express themselves prepared to dispense with their own language. The Secretary is Herr Thilander, 12, Majorsgatan, Stockholm.

INSTITUTIONS.

Bradford. The annual meeting of the Bradford Institution for the Blind was held on February 19th, when the 47th annual report for 1907 was presented. There are 304 names on the visiting list and 102 blind men and women are employed at the workshop. The sales amounted to £13,109 and 2,641 were paid in wages to blind workers. There is a

Men's Training Home with 9 inmates who have made saleable articles amounting to £225. Annuities are paid to 20 blind people from the Harrison Fund, to 3 from the Queen Victoria Fund, and to 4 from the Lythall, Waud, and Holloway memorial funds.

Brighton. The 15th annual report of the Barclay Home and School for Blind Girls, Wellington Road, Brighton, for the year 1907, shows that the extensions now completed provide accommodation for 17 more inmates, a weaving room 45-ft. long by 25-ft. broad, and a Prayer Room large enough for all the inmates and staff. There are 82 inmates in the Home, 39 being under and 43 above the age of 16. There is a mortgage debt of £4,150 on the Home, which now has a frontage of 156 feet to the Wellington Road.

Bristol. The 115th annual report of the Bristol Asylum or School of Industry for the Blind, was presented at a meeting held on April 2nd. There are in the school 57 boys and 35 girls, and the workers and out-pupils number 34 men and 45 women. The Outworkers' Sick Benefit Club has been reconstructed. There are 3 blind teachers who visit the Blind in the districts allotted to them. The sales amounted to £2,918, and £1,072 (including £128 as augmentations) were paid to the Blind in wages. Six blind women received £3 10s. a year, and three £2 10s. from Kempe's Fund.

Cardiff. The 43rd annual report, for 1907, of the Cardiff Institute for the Blind, shews that the sale of goods made by the Blind amounted to £2,855 and the wages paid them to £833, not including a sum of £93 paid in bonuses and sick and holiday allowances. New looms have been added to the mat department. The endowment fund amounts to £1,672. There are 31 men and 8 women employed. Seven old and deserving workers receive £5 a year each from the Shand Memorial Fund.

Edinburgh. (a) The 14th annual report of the Royal Blind Asylum and School, Edinburgh, for the year ended September 30th, 1907, has been published. Reference is made

to the alterations at West Craigmillar, which provide a Home for blind women, and a School for the children, at a cost of £15,000. A sum of £500 was distributed amongst 129 blind persons in grants of £3 to £10 each. The teaching of Boot and Shoe Repairing has been introduced. In the manufacturing department the wages bill averages £170 per week. The Sales amounted to £19,978. Twelve pupils were presented for examination by the Incorporated Society of Musicians, and all were successful in passing, five obtaining honours. The printing department has been enlarged, and a new series of School Readers has been issued.

(b) The 49th report, for the year 1907, of the Edinburgh Society for Promoting Reading amongst the Adult Blind, 20, St. James' Square, Edinburgh, states that there are 9 (since increased to 22) blind persons, receiving £8 a year from the Jamieson Fund. Mr. Ness, the able Superintendent, gives a review of the Society from its inception 50 years ago. There are 452 blind persons under the ægis of the Society.

Exeter. The 68th annual report of the West of England Institution for the Blind, Exeter, for the year ended December 30th, 1907, was presented at a meeting held on February 26th. There were 56 pupils and 18 journeymen on the books on December 31st. Nine pupils were presented for examination by the Incorporated Society of Musicians, and all were successful in passing, five obtaining honours. All the pupils' boots and shoes are made, and necessary repairs carried out, in the shoemaking department. The sales of baskets, &c, amounted to £1,034. £700 were received in legacies.

Glasgow. The 81st annual report of the Royal Glasgow Asylum for the Blind, for the year ended November 30th, 1907, was submitted to the general meeting of Subscribers on January 20th. 291 blind persons were benefitted by the Institution in being boarded, clothed, educated, and employed, and a sum of £7,177 was distributed to the Blind in wages and allowances. The sale of goods realised £9,191. The wood-working department has been provided with the most perfect electric-driven machinery.

Hull. The 44th annual meeting of the Hull Institution for the Blind, was held on May 7th, when the report for 1907 was adopted. The sales amounted to £1,936, and £1,139 were paid in wages. Several men were engaged in making cork fenders, of which 1,726 were sold last year. There is a Sick and Benefit Entertainment Branch, and a Home for 10 blind women. The names of 209 blind persons are on the books. Two blind women have recently obtained certificates of proficiency in massage.

Leeds. The 31st report, for the year ended June 30th, 1907 of the Leeds United Institution for the Blind and the Deaf and Dumb, shows that there are 55 blind workers, and that the sales amounted to £8,962. The Local Education Committee made a grant from their Technical Fund towards the training of 11 blind workers. The matmaking department is now carried on in the new premises in St. Anne's Street. There is a Workpeoples' Sick Society, with a balance of £166. There is a Blind Visiting Department with two visitors.

Liverpool. The 117th report, for 1907, of the School for the Indigent Blind, Hardman Street, and of the School at Wavertree, Liverpool, shows that at the former school there are 59 men and 31 women, and at the latter, which is only for those under 16 years of age, 45 boys and 31 girls. Eleven pupils (two with honours) passed the examination of the Incorporated Society of Musicians. The results in the shoe-making industry are very satisfactory. The sale of goods amounted to £1,443. There is an Old Pupils Fund which granted £171 to pupils (including a grant to the workshop in Cornwallis Street).

London. The 70th annual report of the London Society for Teaching the Blind to read, 10, Upper Avenue Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W., states that during 1907 there were 34 boys and 28 girls as resident and day pupils. Reference is made to the School having been certified under the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf) Children Act, 1893. In the basket department the receipts amounted to £810. The legacies amounted to £1,802.

Manchester (a) The 68th report of Henshaw's Blind Asylum was presented at a meeting held on February 26th. The number of inmates in the Institution is 188 (107 males and 81 females)—in the school there are 50 boys and 41 girls. The report of H.M. Inspector is given, and in it he urges the need of separating the children from the adults. Arrangements have, therefore, been made to adapt a house as a temporary residential school until the new one is erected. There are 45 blind men at work in the outdoor workshops. A sum of £701 was granted to ex-pupils and outside Blind. The sale of goods amounted to £6,936. Shoemaking and repairing have been recently introduced and three Swedish looms have been set up. An important branch of industry has been inaugurated by the purchase of Braille printing plant.

(b) The 8th report of the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society for 1907 was presented at the annual meeting held on February 10th, which was presided over by the Lord Mayor. Besides help given in various ways, £800 a year are paid in wages to blind workers. The centre of activity is the Central Rooms, Deansgate, where the Blind are always warmly welcomed. There are a Sick and Benefit Club, Clothing Department, and a large Lending Library. Six blind men have been employed in the brush workshop, and 10 men and 9 women in writing, copying and teaching Braille. There is a bookbinding department. In the wool work, 20 females and 1 man have been employed. There are 13 blind women in the Home at Manchester, and at the Home at Southport there have been 291 guests.

North Wales The 25th Annual Report of the North Wales Society. Home Teaching Society for the Blind, for the year ended July 1st, 1907, was presented at a meeting held at Pwllheli, on October 24th, when there was also a presentation of an illuminated address and purse containing £30 to Miss Ellis, who has been a teacher of the Society for 25 years. There are 366 blind persons on the register, including those in the branches of St. Asaph and Newtown, recently affiliated to the Society. There are 1457 volumes in the library, of which 750 are in Welsh. There is a Sick and Industrial

Branch, to which one of the teachers has been appointed Secretary, on account of the increase of work.

Sheffield. The annual general meeting of the Sheffield Institution for the Blind was held on March 12th, when the Lord Mayor presided, and the report for 1907 was approved. The balance of the debt (£583), on the new buildings in West Street, has been discharged. The workshops have been recognised, as a Technical Instruction Institution, by the Board of Education, and the Sheffield Education Authority assisted the Committee by a teaching grant of £112, bursaries amounting to £32, and £100 towards the cost of apparatus. There are 53 persons employed at the manufactory, viz., 32 men, 10 women, and 11 learners. In the school there are 70 pupils. The sale of goods amounted to £3,594; £913 were paid in wages to blind workpeople, and £143 in bonuses. There is a Home Mission for visiting the Blind, and also Cottages for four inmates.

Wakefield. The report of the Wakefield and District Societies for the Blind, for the year 1907, was presented at a meeting held on February 3rd, when the Mayor presided. There are 110 blind persons on the list, and 9 are engaged in the workshop—5 men and 4 girls, who received £128 in wages. The sales amounted to £342. There is a Sick and Benefit Branch. The free library provides books in Braille.

Worcester. The annual report, for the year ended July 31st, 1907, of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, contains the Headmaster's account of his second year's work, the report—a very satisfactory one—on the inspection held at the College under the authority of the Oxford and Cambridge Schools' Examination Board, and an account of the Annual Reunion and Speech Day. The new and spacious Gymnasium is a great boon to the pupils, and an instructor in drill and gymnastics has been appointed. Special classes have been organised for carpentry and also for gardening. Great progress has been made in the equipment of the Library, thanks to assistance from old students and friends. Several useful school books have been stereotyped at the College, and others are in preparation.

THE MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

This number will appear only a few days before the Conference begins. We, therefore, print a copy of the paper setting forth the excellent arrangements that have been made. We hope that, if there are any of our readers who have not made up their minds whether to be present or not, they will at once decide to go and support this triennial effort in the interests of the Blind. That they will learn much, and have a most enjoyable time, is a foregone conclusion. The last meeting of the Committee appointed to organise the Conference was held at Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester, at 11 a.m., on May 23rd, when there were present Miss Moon, Rev. St. Clare Hill; Messrs. Pine, Tate, Illingworth (Hon. Sec.), and H. J. Wilson (Chairman). Letters regretting their inability to attend the meeting were read from Rev. Thomas Burns, Dr. Campbell, Messrs. Frew Bryden, Collingwood, Jones and Stainsby.

The draft final programme was carefully considered and revised, and ordered to be printed, as it appears below, with its list of chairmen, readers of papers, openers of discussion, entertainments, &c.; much correspondence from foreign countries also received attention. - It was reported that five of the papers to be read had already been received, and that the subscriptions towards meeting the expenses of the Conference amounted to £131 3s., in addition to the liberal grant promised from Henshaw's Asylum. Mr. Phillips kindly attended and gave an account of what had been done by the local Committee. This report showed how thoroughly the Committee had entered into the many necessary details of organisation, so as to ensure complete success so far as local arrangements are concerned. A draft of the report of the Committee to submit to the Conference was read and approved, and signed by the Chairman. The meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m., when lunch was kindly provided in the Asylum, and at 2 p.m. business was resumed and lasted until 3.30 p.m.

The complete Programme is as follows :—

The Committee of Organisation beg leave to submit the following Programme for the Conference.

The Conference will be held in the Central Hall, Oldham Street, Manchester.

On Sunday evening, 26th July, there will be a Festival Dedication Service in St. Thomas' Church (Chapel of Henshaw's Blind Asylum and the Royal Schools for the Deaf), Old Trafford, at 6.30 p.m. Preacher: Rev. W. E. Harston Morris, M.A., Chaplain to Henshaw's Blind Asylum, and Royal Schools for the Deaf. *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis*: Gadsby in C. Anthem: "Lord, Thou art God," *Stainer*. Organist: Mr. Isaac Davidson, Mus. Bac., &c., Senior Music Master of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Organist and Choirmaster, St. Thomas' Church.

July 27th (Monday)—First Session of Conference, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Chairman: (the late Lord Derby intended to preside). "God save the King." Prayer. Opening Address by the Chairman. Reports of "Conference" and "National Employment of the Blind" Committees. "The Housing of the Blind." Miss I. M. Heywood, Founder and Hon. Sec. of Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society. Opener of Discussion: Miss Winifred Holt, Hon. Secretary of the New York Association for the Blind, and Dr. Moon, Hon. Secretary of the Pennsylvania Home Teaching Society for the Blind, Philadelphia. 6.30 p.m., Dinner to the Delegates, given by the Board of Management of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, in the large hall of the Royal Schools for the Deaf, Old Trafford, kindly lent for the occasion. 8 p.m., Kinderspiel "Old Father Time," by the Pupils of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, in the Concert Hall of the Asylum, Old Trafford.

„ 28th (Tuesday)—Second Session of Conference, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Chairman: The Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor (Ald. Holt). "Technical Education and Employment of the Blind in the United States." Mr. E. Green, Supt. of Missouri School for Blind, St. Louis,

U.S.A. Opener of Discussion: Mr. Chas. F. F. Campbell, Supt. Commission for the Blind, Boston, Mass., U.S.A.

“Commercial Training of the Blind in Canada.” Dr. Fraser, Supt. Halifax School for the Blind, N.S. Opener of Discussion: Mr. Henry Stainsby, Sec. and Supt. General Institution for the Blind, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

NOTE.—Henshaw’s Blind Asylum and Hayesleigh School for Blind Boys, old Trafford, and the Manchester and Salford Workshops for the Blind, 146, Deansgate, will be open to visitors, from 10–12 a.m., and 2–4 p.m. on the above two days. Also Henshaw’s Blind Asylum on the Monday, 5.30–6.30 p.m.

Third Session of Conference, 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Chairman: The Lord Bishop of Manchester. “Pensions for the Blind.” Miss E. Massey. Opener of Discussion: Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Sec. of Gardner’s Trust for the Blind. 8 p.m., Reception in the Town Hall by the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of the City of Manchester.

July 29th (Wednesday)—Fourth Session of Conference, 11 a.m. 1.30 p.m. In the “Gordon Hall,” Blackburne Place, Liverpool. (Train from Central Station, Manchester, at 9.30 a.m.) Chairman: The Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor of the City of Liverpool. “Recreations for the Blind.” Mr. W. Littlewood, Head Master of Wavertree School for the Blind, Liverpool. Opener of Discussion: Mr. Guy Campbell, Vice-Principal of Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, London. The afternoon will be devoted to visiting the various Institutions for the Blind in Liverpool. 5 p.m. Reception by the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress in the Town Hall, Liverpool.

„ 30th (Thursday)—Fifth Session of Conference, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Chairman: Mr. Winston Churchill, M.P.

"The Blind of France." Mdlle. Jacqueline Chevenin, L'Institution Valentin Haüy. Opener of Discussion: Rev. St. Clare Hill, Principal of Leatherhead School for the Blind. "The Past, Present, and Future of the Blind of Japan." Mr. Tadasu Yoshimoto, Tokyo, Japan. Opener of Discussion: Rev. Arthur Taylor, M.A., Sec. British and Foreign Bible Society, London.

Sixth Session of Conference, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Chairman: Vice-Chancellor Hopkinson, Manchester University. "Psychology of Blindness, and Care of Blind Infants." Mr. J. M. Ritchie, Schoolmaster Henshaw's Blind Asylum. Opener of Discussion: Mr. W. H. Dixon, M.A., Oxford. 4.30 p.m., Garden Party given by his Worship the Mayor and Mayoress of Salford, in Peel Park. 6.30 p.m., Cruise down Ship Canal.

July 31st (Friday)—Seventh Session of Conference, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Chairman: His Worship the Mayor of Salford. "Music for the Blind." Mr. H. E. Platt, Teacher of Music at the General Institution for the Blind, Edgbaston, Birmingham. Opener of Discussion: Mr. E. Watson, A.R.C.O., Liverpool.

Eighth Session of Conference, 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Chairman: Sir Arthur Heywood. "The Blind of Ireland, and How their Condition may be Improved." Mr. Mulholland, Mission to Outdoor Blind, Belfast. Opener of Discussion: Mr. Geo. Dickie, Ulster Institution for the Blind, Belfast. Friday evening is left open, so that Members of Conference may have an opportunity of visiting Belle Vue, to which they are kindly invited by the Proprietor, Mr. Jennison, and other places of interest.

August 1st (Saturday)—Ninth Session of Conference, 10 a.m. Chairman: Alderman J. Royle, J.P., Chairman of Board of Management Henshaw's Blind Asylum. A Series of Short Papers will be read on the Subjects

considered at last Conference. Reports from the Secretaries of the Northern and other Unions established since last Conference—including “The College of Teachers of the Blind,” and “Superintendents’ Association,” “Co-ordination of London Workshops for the Blind.” Election of Committees. Closing Address by the Chairman. Benediction: Rev. H. F. McNeil.

Exhibition to be opened at 12 noon, on Friday, 24th July.

It has been arranged to hold an Exhibition in connection with the Conference in three large rooms adjacent to the Conference Hall.

1. Work done by the Blind. £60 will be given in prizes.
2. Apparatus for the Education and use of the Blind.
3. Machines that may be used by the Blind.

This Exhibition will be open from Friday, 24th July, to Monday, 3rd August, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. The public will be admitted at a charge of threepence, and Members of Conference on showing their Tickets of Membership.

Institutions and Societies for the Blind, who have not yet sent in their names as desiring to join the Conference, *are earnestly requested to do so without further delay*, at the same time intimating to the Secretary the names of the delegates they propose to send. There is no charge for Membership, and individual Members will be welcomed, although not belonging to any Institution or Society, so long as they are interested in the welfare of the Blind.

Those Institutions and Societies who have already notified their desire to be represented but have not yet sent in the names of their delegates will please do so at once, otherwise they cannot appear in the Conference Handbook.

The Handbook will be an interesting little volume, and will serve as a Guide to the City and the Conference. It will be published at 6d., or Post Free 8d. Orders for this (cash in advance) should be sent in at once. It is expected it will be ready about the end of June.

An Official Report of the Conference will be issued

containing all the Papers *in extenso*, as well as a verbatim copy of the discussions, as soon as possible after the Conference. It will be well bound in strong cloth boards, and the price will be 2/6, Post Free 2/10. Orders for this should be sent in as early as convenient.

The Local Committee have arranged for a number of ladies and gentlemen to be in attendance to act as interpreters for those Members of Conference who are not familiar with the English language. The Committee hope, therefore, that many friends from Continental countries will thus be encouraged to attend, who otherwise might not care to do so.

The various papers will be printed and circulated on the evening previous to their being read. Braille copies will be available for Blind Members, kindly provided by Mr. Stone, Editor of "Hora Jucunda."

REGULATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE.

1. That no person be admitted to the Conference without a card of invitation with his or her name written upon it, or other evidence of having been invited. All cards will be numbered and untransferable.
2. That the selected compilers of Papers be limited to 20 minutes.
3. That each Paper as soon as read be followed by a discussion, and that the length of the discussion be determined by the Chairmen of the respective sessions.
4. That any Member of the Conference desirous of speaking on any subject in a session, shall send, during the meeting, his card, giving his description or connection with the cause of the Blind, to the Chairman, and await his call.
5. That speakers be limited to 10 minutes, but that this period may be reduced or extended in special cases, at the discretion of the Chairman.
6. That all questions in regard to limiting or extending the length of the speeches, and the selection of speakers whose cards have been sent up, be in the discretion of the Chairman, whose decision shall be final.
7. That speakers shall address the Chairman, and confine themselves strictly to the subject under discussion.

8. That no Member be permitted to speak twice in the same discussion except to a point of explanation.
9. That no formal resolution be moved at any meeting of the Conference except by consent of, and by arrangement with, the General Committee.
10. That the official language of the Conference be English.

NOTE.—The Hon. General Secretary's bell will give warning two minutes before the allotted time for papers or speeches, and will sound again at its expiration.

W. HY. ILLINGWORTH,
Hon. General Secretary,
Henshaw's Blind Asylum,
Old Trafford, Manchester.

UNION OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND IN THE METROPOLITAN AND ADJACENT COUNTIES.

A meeting of the above Union was held on May 2nd, at the office of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, when the following members were present:—Captain A. la Page Agnew, Seaside Holiday Home, Southend; Miss Austin, National Lending Library; Miss Bainbrigge, Home Teaching Society for the Blind; Mr. W. Barnes, British and Foreign Blind Association; Sir John Brickwood, Hants and Isle of Wight School, Southsea; Dr. and Mrs. Campbell, Mr. Guy Campbell, Royal Normal College, Norwood; Mr. A. Carr, London and Provincial Tea Company; Rev. St. Clare Hill, Leatherhead School; Mrs. Inglis, Colchester Home Teaching Society; Mr. Stuart Johnson, Days' Charity; Mr. Wm. Lempriere, Hetherington's Charity; Miss M. M. Martin, Deptford Society for the Welfare of the Blind; Miss Moon, Moon's Society, and Brighton Blind Relief Society; Mr. F. J. Munby, Chairman of Northern Union, York; Miss B. Taylor, Sunbeam Mission; Mr. J. Tennant, Indigent Blind Visiting Society; Miss E. Wagg, Barclay Home and Workshop; Mr. H. J. Wilson, Secretary of Gardner's Trust; Miss E. Wright, Secretary

of Northern Union. Letters of regret for inability to attend the meeting were received from :—Mrs. MacNicol, Institute for Massage by the Blind ; The Secretary of the Institute for Relief of Indigent Blind of Jewish Persuasion ; Mrs. Meiklejon, St. Leonard's School ; Mr. T. W. Morphey, Isle of Wight Society for the Benefit of the Blind ; Mrs. Starey, Somerstown Blind Aid Society ; Mr. Edmonds, South London Association for Assisting the Blind ; Mr. H. Walford, Reading Blind Aid Society.

At two o'clock Mr. H. J. Wilson was unanimously elected Chairman of the meeting, and Mr. Guy Campbell Hon. Secretary.

The Minutes of the meeting of the 10th March, 1908, having been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

The Hon. Secretary presented letters from the different Conveners who had been asked to undertake the formation of similar Unions in other parts of the country.

Re Western Union.—Mr. Collingwood wrote heartily consenting to do what he could to form a Western Union.

Mr. Kingdon, of Bristol, whose letter was read, thought that the area suggested for the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties was too small, and that the whole of the South of England and South Wales should be brought into one Union. The Chairman pointed out that this matter had been very carefully discussed at the meeting of the 10th March, and the meeting agreed with him that it was better to start with small areas, and preferably, if necessary, to amalgamate these afterwards rather than to start with a large area which might have to be split up. Mr. Kingdon was invited to attend the meeting, but telegraphed that he was unable to be present.

Re South Wales Union.—Mr. Hall wrote expressing willingness to do what he could.

Re North Wales Union.—No reply up to the date of the meeting had been received.

Re Midland Union.—Mr. Burrows wrote very heartily, and promised to convene a meeting as soon as possible.

Re Eastern Union.—Mr. Taylor felt the personal responsibility would be too great for him to undertake, but he expressed sympathy with the idea of forming Unions.

The Chairman very heartily welcomed Miss Wright, the Organising Secretary of the Northern Union, and Mr. Munby, the Chairman, and hoped that they would give the meeting the benefit of their experience in the North, feeling sure that such experience would be of inestimable benefit as a guide for starting the Metropolitan Union. He much regretted to have to state that he had just heard from Miss Heywood, that she was unable to attend the meeting.

Miss Wright, who was very heartily received, explained how the Union had originated with Miss Heywood, and pointed out that they had been able to register all the Blind in the Northern Counties through the assistance of the County Constabulary, Captain Metcalfe especially rendering every assistance in his power. This gentleman was now promoted to Somersetshire, but Miss Wright was authorised to state that he would willingly co-operate with any Unions in the South for the purpose of compiling registers in those districts. Miss Wright explained how the Constabulary maps were used, what questions were asked, and what kind of index cards were prepared.

Mr. Munby, who followed, congratulated Dr. Campbell on having inaugurated a Metropolitan Union, and also thanked those present for paying the compliment to the Northern Union that they had in recognising them as the pioneers of the Union movement, and asking them to help by their presence and their remarks at this meeting. Mr. Munby urged caution, and that it should be particularly borne in mind that no drastic changes should be introduced, while every effort should be made to obtain the support of existing Institutions throughout the Union district by having members of their executive join the Central Committee of the Union. He thought, too, that every effort should be made to induce Health Officers and similar authorities to give notification of purulent ophthalmia, so that it might be possible to do away with this form of infantile blindness, one of the great existing scourges of this country. Mr. Munby further urged that no attempt should be made to alter existing trade relations, and that the Union at first should confine itself to the compiling of a proper register and the aftercare of those who had left Institutions.

The Chairman, on behalf of the meeting, thanked Miss Wright and Mr. Munby for their most useful and interesting remarks.

The Draft Constitution provisionally agreed to at the last meeting was carefully considered paragraph by paragraph, and it was decided to amend it by omitting the word "outdoor" before "Blind," and by substituting the word "co-ordination" instead of "unification" in paragraph 3.

The following constitution, as amended, was then unanimously agreed to :—

1. The Union shall be called "The Union of Institutions, Societies and Agencies for the Blind in the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties."
2. The area of this Union shall be Essex, Hertford, Middlesex, Berks, Hants, Sussex, Kent, and Surrey.
3. The objects of the Union are to promote such intercourse among existing Agencies and individuals interested in the welfare of the Blind as may lead to the organisation, co-ordination, and extension of work on their behalf, and to the formation of Societies in districts where there are none existing, to the end that no blind person may be left uncared for. Particular attention will be devoted to :—

The aftercare of pupils leaving Institutions.

Employment of men and women.

The care of the sick, aged, and helpless.

The visitation of the Blind in Workhouses and in their own homes.

4. The Officers of the Union shall consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, and a Central Committee, with Chairman, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Secretary. The Central Committee shall consist of one or two representatives of each Society belonging to the Union subscribing not less than one guinea to its funds, such representatives being appointed annually by their respective Societies. Other persons interested in the Blind may also be co-opted.

5. The Central Committee shall, from time to time, make rules for the government of the business of the Union.
6. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a quarter.
7. There shall be an annual conference of the Union at different towns, the local arrangements for the conference being in charge of the Secretary of the Society in the place where the conference is held.
8. The financial year commences on the 1st January, on which day annual subscriptions become due.

The Committee then proceeded to the election of Officers of the Union, and Mr. H. J. Wilson was unanimously elected Chairman; Mr. Stuart Johnson, Hon. Treasurer; and Mr. Guy Campbell, Hon. Secretary. The Chairman, on his election, thanked the Committee for the honour conferred on him, and stated that he would do his utmost to make the Union a success. He referred to the splendid work being done by the Northern Union, and how the idea had originated with Miss I. M. Heywood. He also congratulated Dr. Campbell on his courage in having taken the initiative to form a Union for other parts of the country, and especially for the Metropolitan and adjacent Counties, where there was such a huge problem to solve in regard to the Blind in London. Miss Bainbrige, Miss Moon, Miss B. Taylor, Mrs. Inglis, Sir John Brickwood, Mr. Lempriere, Dr. Campbell, Rev. St. Clare Hill, and the Officers (ex-officio) were elected members of the Executive Committee.

The Hon. Secretary was requested to compile a register of the outlying districts in the same manner as had been done in the North, and it was agreed that Messrs. Barclay and Co., of 95, Victoria Street, S.W., should be the Bankers of the Union.

Before the close of the meeting the Chairman announced that Miss B. Taylor, of the Sunbeam Mission, had kindly handed him a cheque for £10. This was supplemented by a similar donation from the Hon. Treasurer after the meeting.

The Executive Committee of the Union met on July 4th, at the office of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, when there were present: Miss Bainbrige, Miss Moon, and Miss B. Taylor,

Sir John Brickwood, Dr. Campbell, Mr. Guy Campbell (Hon. Secretary), Mr. Stuart Johnson (Hon. Treasurer), and Mr. Henry J. Wilson (Chairman).

Mrs. Inglis, Rev. St. Clare Hill, and Mr. Lempriere wrote regretting their inability to attend.

The Secretary presented the file cards for criticism, and the Committee highly approved them, and the ingenious devices for distinguishing at a glance the sex, age, etc., of the registered persons. He also reported on his correspondence with regard to approaching the Chief Constables, and showed sample maps.

It was agreed that "The Blind" should be recognised as the official organ of the Union.

The appointment of an Organising Secretary was discussed, but the question was deferred until the next meeting of the Committee, to be held on October 3rd.

Correspondence was read which showed that several of the other suggested Unions are getting to work. Mr. S. M. Burrows, of 9, Norham Gardens, Oxford (the Hon. Secretary), has canvassed all the existing Societies in the Midlands, and received very favourable replies. The first meeting is to be held in October, at the General Institution for the Blind, Birmingham, the Committee of which have invited the members to meet there, and have kindly promised hospitality. Good reports were also received in regard to prompt action being taken by the West of England and North Wales Unions. The Secretaries of the respective Unions are to have an opportunity of reporting progress at the last session of the Conference at Manchester.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR MASSAGE BY THE BLIND.

With thankfulness I am at last able to report that our prolonged and oftentimes disappointing quest for suitably placed accommodation, on inclusive economical terms, such as commended themselves to the Institution's Council, has not been in vain.

Just now we are becoming installed on the first floor at 71, Bolsover Street, W., upon the premises of the British and Foreign Blind Association, whose sub-tenants we shall be; and whom we have found anxious to meet our Council's views, and to co-operate in affording the Institution opportunities for developing and extending its useful work of rendering selected suitable sightless persons self-supporting by the practice of Massage, when they have been well trained therein.

These premises, which will henceforth be the Official-Centre of the Institution's operations, are admirably situated for the special purpose.

They are entered from a comparatively private street in the rear of the communicating and immediately contiguous office of the British and Foreign Association for the Blind, which was attracted to 206, Great Portland Street, W., by its special accessibility, for the Blind, from all parts of the Metropolis and Country,

This Official-Centre will afford, on one floor, the Secretary Superintendent's Office, separate waiting-room accommodation for blind trained operators or enquirers, and two spacious cubicles for interviews, introductions or practice between patients or their medical advisers, and the Institution's fully trained and certified blind operators; also an ample room for Council Meetings, instructional examination, social or demonstration purposes, the whole well ventilated, lighted and warmed, and approached, along a guiding handrail, from the street threshold, through the entrance hall, up one flight of stairs, to the first floor landing, which affords access to the suite of communicating rooms. These have been arranged so as to at once favour a convenient and necessary separation of the males and females, patients and operators, the seeing and sightless, professional and enquiring visitors, while facilitating the safe and easy circulation of all, and minimising fire risks.

The position is immediately handy to the Medical Consultants, in communication by telephone and telegraph with all parts, and likewise accessible by direct transit, during the Institution's official hours, which will be adjusted to accord generally with those of its professional patrons.

It has been sought, with encouraging success, to merit and command the recognition, appreciation, and support of the Medical profession generally, by the careful selection, constant supervision, excellent training, cautious certification, which the Institution maintains, alike for the good repute of its blind operators, and the advantage and satisfaction of medical friends and the patients they introduce.

We were unfortunate in losing, through death, the Institution's first Royal Patron, His Royal Highness, The Duke of Cambridge, K.G., and, through advancing years and removal to a distance from London, its first and much beloved Chairman, Mr. Henry Power, F.R.C.S., who continues to take a kind and keen interest in all that concerns the Institution's work under his old pupil and successor in office, Professor Malcolm M. McHardy, F.R.C.S., our Chairman, who, with Mr. Arnold Lawson, F.R.C.S., as Vice-Chairman; and Mr. John Tennant, as Treasurer, are supported by a thoroughly representative and eminently qualified Council, upon which are numbered both ladies and gentlemen, professional and lay men, the seeing and sightless; and this Council is fortunate in commanding, as Honorary Professional Referees, a list, which embraces so many of the best known and promising workers that it must command respect, and its decisions, as to the special fitness of operators for the positions to which the Institution furnishes such, should be beyond dispute, as their advice, on points submitted by the Council, is beyond price.

Dr. Fletcher Little's cheerful unstinted pains, and skill, in sorting, training, encouraging, and examining for certification, our sightless would-be-probationers, whom he instructs and trains in massage classes, and at least up to the same level, with his seeing pupils, claim special acknowledgement, and have received the best thanks of our Council, whose work would have been dwarfed if not killed, during the first seven years of the Institution's existence, but for this expert's devoted, unflagging, and generous co-operation.

The Institution, in spite of the disadvantages under which it has laboured, now has on its register nearly three score well-trained qualified and certified blind operators, viz.: 36 masseuses

for female, and 21 masseurs for male patients; many of these operators are very successful and quite self-supporting. They, without exception, have given satisfaction to their patients, and to the physicians and surgeons by whom such were introduced, and the course of massage and its results scrutinized.

Our operators' letters, and contributions to repay advances made for their lodging during training, or outfit and despatch, introduction and settlement in likely establishments or localities, are so gratifying that I feel constrained to quote the following extracts, viz.:—

“Miss B. has entirely supported herself for over three years, and, some little time back, repaid to the Institution the last instalment of what it had been instrumental in advancing to introduce and install her, as a Blind Masseuse, in a health resort where she is particularly well, happy, and kindly cared for; and whence she hopes to be able to continue to remit a poundage on her earnings to help the Institution which has done so much for her, to similarly benefit other blind young and willing folk.

Another writes: “I have got on fairly well, and have plenty of work promised by doctors. Enclosed is £1 due to the Institution; the work of which I sincerely hope will continue to grow and prosper, for then it must prove a blessing to many, beside me, of those sight-afflicted but anxious to earn their own independence.”

Another writes from the suburbs: “It is with a feeling of very deep and heartfelt gratitude to our Heavenly Father that I *look back* and try *to review* for you my first year of Massage work. I have quite a nice little private practice, which, during my first year, returned me about £90. I have now been able to pay my board and lodging, and, exactly within twelve months, to remit the last instalment to clear off the indebtedness incurred over and during my training, and advanced to place me here. I have had introductions from ten, and the promises of such, when opportunities offer, from four others of the medical gentlemen hereabouts. I most sincerely trust many of your blind pupils and friends may, like myself, be able to furnish a similarly and equally bright report of their first year's experience in applying

that skill, by which your excellent Institution has enabled them to serve their sisters and support themselves. I thank you kindly for all the kind interest you take in my welfare."

Mention must be made of a "Birthday League of Thankfulness for Sight," which was started only two years ago in the hope of interesting young people, and already has 187 members.

Now, with confidence begotten of success, with prophecy backed by experience, with assurance fortified by knowledge, during our Institution's modest minority, while proclaiming its possession of an adequate Official Centre, and its cultured, medical clientèle, we make bold to foretell its enduring and increasing usefulness, both to its blind and grateful pupil-operators and to their suffering patients from among the seeing public, for whose recognition, appreciation, goodwill and recommendation we plead.

Though the Institution's work promises soon to become self-supporting, at this stage it requires funds to warrant its speedily securing publicity, following up old and launching new scouts, for the development of its aims, which are *first* to trace out, scrutinize, and accept probationer pupils; *next*, to lodge, train in massage and allied treatment-methods, classify and register suitable sightless persons with a view *finally* to installing them, amidst selected environments, favourable to their subsequent self-supporting service, under the *Institutions continuing supervision*, for the public weal.

(Mrs.) ELIZABETH R. MACNICOL,

Hon. Secretary since 1902.

NORTH OF ENGLAND UNION OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

The Annual Meeting of this Union was held at Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Friday, May 15th, the anniversary of the Union's first Conference at York, in 1907.

The Lord Mayor of Newcastle, President of the Home

Teaching Society for the Blind, presided, and gave the Union a hearty welcome to Newcastle, a city which, as he said, was rich in charitable institutions of all kinds, and which was doing a great work for the Blind. He then mentioned the three agencies for the Blind in Newcastle:—the Residential School at Benwell Dene, the Workshops for the Adult Blind in Breamish Street, and the Home Teaching Society—all doing excellent work, but acting quite independently of one another. Though he did not by any means advocate the amalgamation of these three agencies, he thought that increased efficiency would result from some system of co-operation on the part of the different Committees. He sincerely trusted that this co-operation would be one result of the Union's meeting at Newcastle.

Miss Edith Wright, the Organizing Secretary, read an exhaustive and most interesting first Annual Report. She said that there had been a wonderful year of progress; that quietly, but certainly, the need and force of union and co-operation had been making themselves felt more and more. The report then dealt with the Union's work for the year, and the valuable interest aroused by its meetings in various parts of its area of work. It announced the formation of new centres of active work at Lancaster, Barrow, Darlington, and Keighley; stated that during the year the Organizing Secretary had visited forty-one agencies for the Blind in different parts of the country, and detailed the steps taken in the Union's energetic crusade against Preventible Blindness. The report then dealt seriatim with the number of the Blind in the Six Northern Counties, and the existing agencies at work on their behalf. Special reference was made to the proposed formation of similar Unions of agencies for the Blind throughout England and Wales, and to the attendance of Mr. F. J. Munby (Chairman), and the Organizing Secretary at the first meeting of the Union for the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties. A special acknowledgment was made of the valuable help rendered by Mr. H. J. Wilson, Secretary of Gardner's Trust, in allowing the meetings and work of the Union to be regularly reported in the pages of "The Blind."

Mr. F. J. Munby, Chairman of the Union, moved the

adoption of the report. He spoke in favour of societies in large centres co-ordinating without losing their individuality, as suggested by the Lord Mayor. He said that the care of the Blind was women's work, and in this direction the labours of women had far exceeded the efforts of men. Contentment, he declared, was one of the characteristics of those who were bereft of sight, and, if they were given a fair chance, and their neighbours looked after them, as they ought to do, the Blind would help the world to go round cheerfully and thankfully.

Dr. Hodgkin, Newcastle, in seconding the report, urged the importance of union between existing organisations as productive of economy both in time and labour.

At the subsequent general meeting, the constitution of the Union was amended to admit individual friends of the Blind to membership of the Union, and power was given to co-opt a certain number of such members to seats on the Committee.

In the afternoon a largely-attended Conference was held at the Royal Victoria School for the Blind, Benwell Dene, Mr. F. J. Munby presiding.

"Prevention of Early Blindness"—the first subject under discussion—was introduced in a paper by Dr. George Foggin, Principal Medical Officer, Newcastle Education Committee, and Hon. Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Royal Victoria School for the Blind. His observations, he said, had shown that an extraordinary number of cases of blindness supervened in the earliest days of infancy. The terrible but easily preventible disease of infantile ophthalmia was responsible for more than one-third of the blindness of the world, and the means taken to cope with it formed one of the most dramatic chapters in the romance of medical science. He should like to see among medical men a Society for the Prevention of Blindness, a society without entrance fee or annual subscription, every member of which should pledge himself to never omit the immortal Crede's method in any single case of his obstetric practice. By merely cleansing the eyes of the new born babe, and dropping into each a drop of a solution of nitrate of silver, Crede was able to reduce the percentage of cases of ophthalmia from 10.8 to 0.2—in a word, to practically

abolish the disease. If it was not possible to abolish all blindness, then, at all events, for the credit of the progress of scientific knowledge, and for the honour of their race, they must prevent all blindness occurring in the early days of infant life. He would like to have all cases of inflammation of the eyes occurring in the first fortnight of a child's life added to the list of notifiable diseases.

Professor Oliver, M.D., Newcastle, in opening the discussion, agreed with Dr. Foggin's Paper, and also approved of notification of cases of inflammation in the eyes of children. They wanted, he said, not only notification, but also enlightenment, and he could not help thinking that education would do much to prevent a disease which, after all, was preventible.

Dr. Clayton, Gateshead, supported the paper, and said that at birth it was frequently forgotten that there was a baby in the house. He thought that the child should receive greater attention.

Dr. Nimmo Walker, Liverpool, objected to compulsory notification of purulent ophthalmia as unworkable. He was convinced from experience that they had in the notification of births, and the superintendence of midwives, machinery capable of dealing with this evil. He suggested that on the marriage lines of couples there should be inscribed: "If children's eyes become inflamed, there is danger of blindness."

At the close of the discussion on this subject, the Conference adopted the following resolution:—

"That the ladies of the North of England be asked to send to their respective Local Societies for the Blind the names and addresses of such as are willing, each in her own neighbourhood, to make known in Mothers' Meetings and elsewhere the possibility of preventing blindness in infancy."

"Employment for Blind Women" was the second subject for consideration. An interesting and instructive Paper on this important question was read by Mr. J. Frew Bryden, Superintendent of the Mission to the Outdoor Blind of Glasgow and the West of Scotland. Much valuable information was given as to

the character and conditions of work carried on in their own homes by blind women in Scotland. Some particulars had also been compiled of the various employments followed by blind women within the Union's area, together with the numbers of workers so engaged, and suggestions for new employments or improvements in existing ones. This information showed the existence of a wide field requiring urgent attention in the finding of employment and otherwise caring for the many blind women who, though trained and willing to work, are compelled through no fault of their own, to pass their lives in enforced idleness.

Mrs. James Thompson (Newcastle and Gateshead Home Teaching Society), and Miss Burnett (Colne Blind Prevention and Aid Society) followed, and by able and sympathetic addresses urged the extreme importance of providing suitable and properly paid employment for blind women. The Conference emphasized this by referring the question to a Special Sub-Committee of the Union.

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress subsequently held a reception in the large School Hall, at which excellent selections of music were given by the pupils. The members of the Conference were also invited to see the educational and recreational work of the school in the fine new buildings and beautiful grounds at Benwell Dene.

Hearty votes of thanks were passed to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, as well as to Mr. C. B. Catnach and the Committee of the School for their generous hospitality, and to Mr. W. Robertson, House Governor, Mrs. Robertson, and all the School Staff, for their admirable arrangements and great kindness.

SINCE the last issue of "The Blind" several red-letter events call for notice, in the Union's Record:—

1. The amazing development of other Unions, all over the country on similar lines to the above, so quickly after the formation of that in the North, has come as a surprise and delight to all the members and officials of *this* Union. They feel profoundly thankful that the organisation in the North has been considered worthy of imitation, for co-ordinating work for the Blind.

2. On May 2nd, the Organising Secretary with Mr. Munby, attended the first meeting of the newly formed Metropolitan Union. The Northern representatives were invited to describe their methods and work in the North, to a large representative gathering, with the result that the work of the Metropolitan Union is to be carried out mainly on the same lines as ours. Mr. Guy Campbell, Hon. Secretary, has since been supplied with further details and information by Miss E. Wright.

3. The Annual Meeting and Conference took place on May 15th, at Newcastle, as described above by Mr. Norwood. It proved a most happy meeting ground for all, but especially for the three "Agencies" at work in that city, where we trust, true co-operation and union for the good of their many Blind, will continue to exist.

4. A Memorial has been drawn up and sent to the Local Government Board with a petition that Purulent Ophthalmia, may be included in the Infectious Diseases Act.

5. The Executive Committee have met at Stockport, and afterwards, the Organising Secretary visited Ashton and Staleybridge, where a very active Society for the Blind is doing good work under a Committee of earnest ladies. She also attended a large gathering in Leeds, where she was asked to explain the objects of the Union; and also at a similar annual gathering in Barnsley.

6. On June the 5th and 6th, by special invitation, Miss E. Wright, as Representative of the Northern Union, attended the Conference of the Scottish "Outdoor" Blind Teachers' Union at Inverness.

It was from some seeds which fell in Edinburgh in 1905, that this Union of ours has sprung up and grown, when we heard from Mr. Frew Bryden's most interesting paper of the work and organisation for the "Outdoor" Blind in Scotland. Mr. Bryden has twice helped us since with excellent papers, at Manchester and Newcastle Conferences.

Therefore, this invitation gave a fitting opportunity for us to join hands with our Scottish brothers and sisters, to thank them, and tell them of all that had come of those seeds sown, three years ago!

The Conference was intensely interesting, and the delegates were received with true highland hospitality. About 20 or 30 earnest Christian workers from each County division in Scotland, one from Ireland, and three from England—a “Union” indeed, of the British Isles!

The Provost of Inverness opened the proceedings with a Civic Reception in the Municipal Buildings, and excellent papers were read throughout the following day, viz.: on “The Blind of the East,” by the Rev. A. A. Cooper, M.A., being a vivid picture from an eye witness, of the awful havoc of blindness in Egypt, and also of the noble Christian work for blind girls and women in Jerusalem.

Dr. F. M. MacKenzie, Medical Officer of Health for Inverness, read an excellent paper on “Prevention of Blindness,” dealing especially with *all* forms of Preventible Blindness, other than Purulent Ophthalmia. A very interesting discussion followed, Doctors being much in evidence.

“The Relief of the Destitute Blind in Parish Councils,” was the subject taken by Mr. Frew Bryden, Superintendent of the West of Scotland Mission, showing what an amount of work is done, and can be done for the very poorest of the outdoor Blind, and also their difficulties.

Mr. Meldrum, of Aberdeen, gave a paper on “Literature for the Blind.”

Reports were given from each Centre and County, of work done and statistics, as to number employed, &c., by Mr. Ness, of Edinburgh. There are about 4,000 Blind in Scotland. This in contrast to our 8,000 odd in the six North of England Counties struck one much, as showing the different sort of work and organisation needed in widely scattered districts, and the more densely populated counties, such as we have to consider.

An excellent Concert, given by the Members of the Inverness Blind Institution; a drive to Culloden, given by the generosity of the Directors, and an unique open-air lunch in the charming garden of Mr. and Mrs. MacKenzie, concluded a memorable Conference in Scotland.

The impression that will remain always is of happy brother-

hood of earnest Christian workers, all keen on the best ways of aiding their Blind, and who consecrate all they do or undertake for those committed to their care, by constant praise and prayer.

THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE ADULT BLIND OF LONDON.

Three meetings have been held to consider what steps can be taken to unite and augment the work of those charities of London which are directly interested in the employment of the Blind.

At the meetings, all six of the Charities have been duly represented, and the greatest interest has been taken in the discussion of this very important subject.

At the second meeting held on May 11th, the following resolution was passed by a majority: "That in the opinion of this meeting the need of providing work for the Blind can best be met by the amalgamation of existing Institutions into one great society for employing the Blind of the County of London."

At the meeting on June 16th, to which all members of the six Committees were invited, the following resolution was passed unanimously: "That each of the Charities be asked to call a meeting to consider the scheme submitted by the Rev. St. Clare Hill, with a view to co-operating with the others for the purpose of employing the adult Blind of London."

Upon this, on June 22nd, a draft of the scheme proposed was forwarded to the Chairman of the several Committees with a hope that it will be sympathetically discussed by the managing bodies of each of the six Charities concerned.

Since the last meeting of the joint Committees, a representative of the Barclay Workshop for Blind Women has been invited to attend the next meeting, which will be held after the various charities have had an opportunity of considering the scheme.

The following is the draft which has been forwarded:—

The question of the employment of those Blind who have received instruction in a trade is one of the most vital affecting this afflicted class; and an effort has been made for upwards of half a century to cope with the problems associated with this branch of philanthropic work. Much gratitude is due to those ladies and gentlemen who have given of their time and substance to this worthy object.

Of the necessity of the work there can be no doubt. The Blind as a class are severely handicapped, and consequently cannot compete in trade with their more fortunate sighted brother artisans unless assisted by charity.

There are six Societies in London which are concerned in this work, namely:—

Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind.

Waterloo Road Factory for the Blind.

London Society for Teaching the Blind to Read.

Surrey Association for the General Welfare of the Blind.

The West London Workshops for the Blind.

Workshop for the Blind of Kent.

For various reasons the operations of each of these Societies are restricted, so that whatever may be the desire of the Committees, only the very fringe of this important work has been touched.

The Census Returns for 1901 inform us that there were 3,556 Blind in the 29 Boroughs of London.

The number is thus analysed:—

Males	1,685.
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Females	1,871.
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Over 65 years .. .	1,190.
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Under 16 years .. .	280.
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Leaving between 16 and 65 years .. 2,086, the age when the artisan class is usually expected to earn wages.

It is estimated that this number must be materially increased if larger London is considered, and still further increased if the wider definition of Blindness adopted by the Board of Education be accepted.

So that it may be safely stated that in larger London there are about 3,500 Blind between the ages of 16 and 65 years.

Those experienced in questions affecting the Blind know that in consequence of mechanical inability there are many incapable of employment. Also that a certain number find employment independent of factories or any other charitable bodies. For these various reasons it has been concluded that in larger London there are probably some 2,000 who might fairly be associated for employment with philanthropic bodies.

Now what do we find in London? A marvellous insufficiency of employment by charitable bodies, for the whole six Societies provide places for only 228 artizans.

It is clear that there is ample scope for the operation of those charitably disposed.

The present system is very expensive.

It is expensive in the matter of rent and premises.

It is expensive in the matter of the number of sighted foremen in comparison with the number of blind artizans employed.

Also in consequence of the absence of united methods adopted by these six bodies, the results are strikingly inefficient, both in the quality of the work produced, and in the amount of orders for work obtained from the buying public. This ineffectiveness in results is further hampered by the "clashing of interests" when appealing to the public either for work or for subscriptions.

Frequently we are met with the necessity to explain which Institution we are, and sometimes even find that in soliciting orders we are trespassing upon the preserves of another charitable association. This produces confusion and lack of interest in the public mind, the very opposite feelings to what is desirable.

In the interest of the Blind I have thought much on this subject, and have come to the conclusion that a great deal would be gained if it were possible to find a basis of co-operation or federation among these six charitable bodies.

If such a platform for operation were discovered there would be a unification of interests, a united and larger appeal to the

public, a considerable reduction in the total cost of up-keep, and a less necessity for the present large employment of sighted foremen.

Besides, if material were purchased in large bulk it could be obtained at more favourable prices.

To carry out this idea I have ventured to submit a scheme by which the work of employing the Blind of London might be undertaken by one special body. There would then be a centralisation of operations. One administrative department, one sales department, and the whole system controlled by one spirit of management.

1. In this scheme, the various *workshops* controlled by one general administrator would be managed by skilled foremen, and in order to reduce the number of such foremen an endeavour would be made to collect, as far as possible, the various trades, so that, for instance, instead of having six basket shops each of from 3 to 20 workpeople, there might be only two or three basket shops, thus reducing the number of foremen by one-half.

Again, whereas at present these workshops are situated in expensive premises in main thoroughfares of London, under the scheme they would be found in cheaper premises, in poorer streets perhaps, in the same neighbourhood. Thus, in the workshops alone there would be a double basis of saving without any increased inefficiency, namely, reduction in the number of sighted foremen, and economy in the rent of premises.

There are several other advantages in such a scheme, for instance, economy in purchasing materials and improved quality of workmanship in consequence of the competition which is always associated with the larger shop.

2. There would be a greater efficiency in the *Sales Department*. In the scheme the Sales Manager would be a skilled and experienced salesman with wide knowledge of London and its demands. He would collect under his ken the goods manufactured at the various workshops and the General Administrator, always working in conjunction with the Sales Manager, would produce those articles which are most acceptable to the latter.

The Sales Manager would, like that same official in a large mercantile business, be assisted by canvassers or travellers,

possibly working on commission, so that orders would be obtained.

There would be one general Sales Department which would control the sales throughout London. There may be eventually many Sale Shops, but whenever that happy day arrives they would all be carried on under the eventual management and control of the Head Sales Manager, so that uniformity of product and systematic disposal of goods may be effected.

3. *The administration of the Charity* would be worked from one office, after the pattern of several existing firms now successfully operating in London, namely:—Salmon & Gluckstein, Ltd., Lyons & Co., Aerated Bread Co., Baker & Co., “Our Boys.”

4. To carry out this scheme *money would be required*. The obtaining of this would be undertaken by the Central Office, where those skilled in the collecting of funds would follow the instructions of the Director and the Committee.

I am convinced that if some sort of basis could be agreed upon the scheme could be made to work with many advantages, including the following:—

1. The more effective employment of the Blind as regards quality of work; quantity of work; numbers employed.
2. The more generous support of the public.
3. Reduction of up-keep expenses, and opportunity for increasing the number of trades for occupying the Blind.

I am deeply *conscious of the difficulties* which confront the Board of Management of the various Committees, but I firmly believe if the problems are faced a solution can be found. And I also feel that the benefits to the Blind of such a scheme would be so substantial that no endeavour can possibly be too great in achieving such a boon to this handicapped class of Society.

To this end I shall be very pleased to respond to the invitation of any Committee, and to attend with the object of giving explanations, offering suggestions, or making any other contributions which may tend to the furtherance of that which I believe is a crying necessity of the Blind of the Metropolis.

ST. CLARE HILL, M.A.,

*School for the Indigent Blind,
Leatherhead, Surrey.*

June 23^d, 1908.

In Memoriam.

JOHANN MOLDENHAWER.

On the 22nd March last there passed away in Copenhagen one who has long been recognised, both here and on the continent, as one of the leading lights among the workers for the improvement of the condition of the Blind, and his death will be regretted by all who had the privilege to know him.

Herr J. Moldenhawer was born in 1829, and practically spent his whole life on behalf of the Blind, and he it was who initiated the systematic teaching of the Blind in Denmark. He was the first Director of the Royal Institution for the Blind in Copenhagen, which position he occupied for the long period of forty-seven years, until his retirement in 1905. He received his early education at the Royal School at Copenhagen, and he afterwards studied philology at the University in that city. In 1854 he undertook at his own expense a tour for the purpose of making a study of educational questions. He visited Institutions for Defectives and for the Blind, and on his return to his own country he published an interesting account of various establishments of the kind he had visited in Germany and Switzerland. The Danish Government, recognising the importance of the question, made a monetary grant to him to continue these studies and enquiries, and he then extended his researches, visiting Institutions in England, Holland, Belgium, Germany and France. The Government at that time had a proposal to take under its charge, and develop, a small Institution for the Blind which had been carried on and maintained privately. At the urgent request of the Minister of Instruction of Denmark of that day, Herr Moldenhawer resolved to devote himself entirely to the cause of the Blind, and with that object in view he went, in the year 1857, on a further tour of inspection, and enquiry in regard to the systems of dealing with the Blind in other countries, remaining for a long time in Dresden and in Paris. On his return to Copenhagen, he suggested the establishment of a National Institution for the Blind, the intention being to adopt all such methods of instruction as were appropriate to the circumstances of his country, and he was appointed the Director. The

Institution was inaugurated in November, 1858, in the presence of His Majesty Frederick VII. with 25 pupils, of whom 22 were from the private Institution before mentioned. The number increased to 40 the following year, and in 1865 there were 70 pupils, the full number the Institution was then capable of accommodating. In 1882 the Institution underwent enlargement so as to accommodate 100, and this number was subsequently admitted.

In his care for the Blind, Herr Moldenhawer did not rest satisfied with simply providing the means of instruction, his efforts were equally directed also to placing out his pupils as useful and independent persons in society, and he founded in 1894 a Society for the purpose of providing work for the Blind. But beyond all this, his care was not for the Danish Blind alone, his interests were world-wide, and indefatigable in the practice of doing good, he frequently wrote articles in foreign newspapers on the subject of the Blind, with a view to the improvement of their condition. Since his retirement Herr Moldenhawer compiled a history of the Royal Institution for the Blind at Copenhagen, containing also an account of the commencement and development of the cause of the Blind in Denmark. This book he also translated and published in French last year. In the councils on behalf of the Blind, Herr Moldenhawer held a high place, not only in Denmark but in other countries, and his important and meritorious services have everywhere been accorded much recognition.

It has been my privilege to meet Herr Moldenhawer on a number of occasions, the first being as long ago as the year 1883, when he took part in the first Conference which was held on the Blind in this country. The Conference was held at York to commemorate the Jubilee of the Yorkshire School for the Blind. He and the late Mr. Buckle of York were close friends, and there was also present at the Conference the late Herr Meyer, that splendid Dutchman, long since gone to his rest, the Director of the Institution at Amsterdam. Young to the work as I then was, I looked up to these men as veritable fathers in the work, and they did much to inspire and encourage me. They have now all passed away, and the world of the Blind is

the poorer by their loss, but of them it may be truly said that their works do follow them. I also had the pleasure of meeting Herr Moldenhawer, both at the Conference at the Royal Normal College at Upper Norwood in 1890, and at the Congress at Brussels in 1902, in which he took a prominent part, and lastly, in company with Mr. A. B. Norwood, the successor of Mr. Buckle at York, I had the privilege of meeting and being entertained by this fine old man in his Danish home at Copenhagen, where he was quietly resting from his labours. He had retired from active service at the Institution the previous year, but he lived near by and was still full of the cause, which we discussed at great length, and he showed us with much pleasure and pride over his old Institution. Particularly was he interested in taking us to see the splendid Home for Blind Women at Mariendalsvig on the outskirts of the city. After showing us the Workshops in the city he bid us an affectionate good-bye, and we parted from him with much regret. One who is a true friend of the Blind in this country and who knew him well, writes to me of "dear old Moldenhawer. I was always specially interested in him, and it seemed a privilege to be in touch with one who was so essentially pure in heart. Alongside his friend Meyer, that wonderful Dutchman, they both made an interesting pair, from whom we received a genuine inspiration. I am simply overpowered by the way these men have wakened the English up. I should say Moldenhawer's companions were the best men he could find, and that if by doing his own work well he could help to make them better he would."

Herr Moldenhawer gave a long life to the cause of the Blind. The record of that life is an inspiration to the workers in the cause. He has left an enduring mark on the history of the work for the uplifting of the Blind, not only in his own country, but in the larger field beyond, and we do well to honour his memory and to endeavour to follow his great example.

19th June, 1908.

H. W. P. PINE,

Superintendent and Secretary of the Midland
Institution for the Blind, Nottingham.

The Blind.

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All communications for the next number must be sent on or before December 19th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

In this number we give a record of the proceedings at the Conference held in July last, at Manchester. It does not pretend to be more than an outline of the chief transactions, which can be filled in by the full and verbatim official report, of which the difficulties of production are referred to on page 112.

Too much prominence cannot be given to the subject of purulent ophthalmia, and therefore, as it is well to have the different views as to the treatment of this terrible scourge, we have pleasure in printing an article on the subject, by Mr. Nimmo Walker.

Intending subscribers for "The Blind," during 1909, are requested to fill in the accompanying form, and to return it with their subscriptions, 1/2, post free, for the four numbers, to the Editor before December 14th next, and to send an extra ½d. if a receipt be required.

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. Mr. G. F. Whittleton, B.A., late of the Leeds School for the Blind, and of the Royal Normal College, and of Wadham College, and Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, was ordained Deacon on

September 27th, by the Bishop of Southwark, in his Cathedral, and is now acting as Assistant Curate to the Rev. H. Lawrence Phillips, Vicar of St. Paul's, Plumstead.

2. Mr. Joseph Lister, formerly a student of the Royal Normal College, and now at Oriel College, Oxford, has taken Third Class Honours in Theology six months before the statutable time for taking his degree.

3. Mr. W. A. Schofield, formerly a student of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, and recently of St. Edmund's Hall, Oxford, has taken Second Class Honours in the Final School of Modern History. Mr. Schofield has now gone to the Leeds Clergy School, preparatory to taking Holy Orders.

4. It is with the greatest possible pleasure that we announce the appointment of Mr. Henry Stainsby, as Secretary of the British and Foreign Blind Association. No better man could have been found to carry out the manifold duties of the Association, and to bring it once more into the accredited position it formerly held when started by the late Dr. Armitage, especially in taking the lead in the supply of useful apparatus and requisite literature for the Blind. The Council of the Association are to be congratulated on having obtained the valuable services of a thoroughly practical man of inventive genius, as shown by the Stainsby-Wayne typewriters, and also of proved intellectual capacity. The splendid and progressive work carried on by Mr. Stainsby at Birmingham, shows his indefatigable zeal on behalf of the Blind, his organising powers and business capabilities, which augur well for the future of the Association. There are few men better known, or more respected, amongst workers for the Blind, and the Blind themselves, for thoroughness in all he undertakes, and for weighty and well-balanced judgment on all matters relating to those bereft of sight. His appointment will be welcomed with acclamation. His loss to the Institution at Birmingham will be keenly felt, where he has faithfully laboured for over 28 years,

and has done so much to place the Institution in the position it now holds. He was appointed Assistant Master in February, 1880; Assistant Secretary in 1883; Secretary and Trade Manager in 1893; and General Superintendent and Manager in 1899. In 1893 there were 116 pupils and 18 workpeople earning £396 a year. Now there are 156 pupils and 106 workpeople earning £3,772, including augmentation. The sales in 1893 amounted to £2,366, and last year to £12,036. The subscriptions in 1893 were £452, and the donations £260; and now £1,149 and £1,826 respectively, besides a sum of £1,453 raised by special donations and proceeds of Bazaar. The new workshops, which he had so much at heart, have recently been erected at Harborne, and already six new hands have been employed at mat-making. Amongst the many improvements and extensions during his secretaryship must be mentioned, the erection of the Kindergarten School, the opening of a Type-writing Office with blind operators, the carefully drawn up scale for augmentation of wages, the foundation of scholarships, the introduction of Lantern Lectures, &c., to interest the general public, shorthand and typewriting, &c., &c. It will be remembered that the shorthand system was introduced at the Birmingham Institution, and that the shorthand machine and the automatic Braille writers were invented there. But, above all, the chief aim of Mr. Stainsby has been to employ as many blind persons as possible, and it must be most gratifying to him to know that at the present time there are no less than 23 of the officers of the Institution who are blind. We wish him all possible success in his new sphere of work which has so many openings for his special bent of mind.

5. Our readers will be sorry to hear that owing to the heavy work at the Conference, and the subsequent compilation of the official report, Mr. Illingworth had to go abroad to avert a complete breakdown. There is no doubt that the preparations for, and the necessary arrangements after, a Conference, are too much of a strain to place on any man who is the chief official at an Institution. *Experto crede!* We, ourselves, have been

through the ordeal and the threatened breakdown. This all points to a question that ought to be seriously considered by the Conference Committee, viz.: the appointment of a paid assistant during the three months immediately preceding, and say two months following a Conference. Assistance after the Conference is most necessary in order to bring out the Report quickly. It was this natural and praiseworthy desire of Mr. Illingworth that, as we understand, caused serious symptoms of overwork. Some people are so inconsiderate in not returning promptly the proofs of their speeches or in correcting so illegibly, that time is lost and patience tried in trying to make sense out of hieroglyphics! Others, again, are evidently so perturbed with the reporter's account of what they really said, that they ignore what has already been set up in print, and return carefully typewritten remarks of what they would evidently like to have said! I suppose there are very few, who would not wish to amend their impromptu speeches, in fact rewrite them with well rounded sentences. And there may be some—we trust not many—who would wish to water down what they had said, or possibly take a different view after mature consideration! This is not as it ought to be. The proofs of the shorthand writer should be corrected as little as possible, and only where there are words misspelt, or some self-evident mistake. We have had much experience ourselves in regard to the return of proofs; and the audacity of some of the corrections is beyond belief. We think that the following experience, which we had six years ago, when drawing up the official report of the London Congress is unique. When busily engaged with the work, we received several sheets of typewritten matter with a covering letter to say that the enclosed was what the writer intended to say, *if he had spoken*, and therefore, he hoped that it might be printed amongst the proceedings after Mr ——'s speech!

Just on going to press we are pleased to be able to report that Mr. Illingworth has returned thoroughly invigorated, and is again back at work.

6. The Festival Monologue for the organ, on the first day

of the Three Choirs Festival, at Worcester, was composed and played by Mr. Wolstenholme, formerly a student at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, at Worcester.

7. The Hon. Secretary of the Society called "Fellowship of the Blind and Seeing," has removed from Harrow to 2, Willifield Cottages, Willifield Way, Hendon, N.W.

8. From the 21st to the 24th of July last there was held the annual reunion of old boys and speech-day at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, Worcester. Delightful as these gatherings are, the proceedings are much alike from year to year. There was an informal concert every night, and on the 23rd a cricket match took place between past and present students, in which the former were victorious. The usual old boys' dinner was provided by Mr. and Mrs. Barnard that same evening, and the speech-day was held on the following day. Unfortunately, Lord and Lady Cobham were both prevented from being present, the one by business in the House of Lords, the other by an unlucky accident. The Chair was consequently taken by Canon Wilson, whilst Mrs. Forster gave away the prizes. Canon Wilson made a most graceful Chairman, and in the course of his remarks made feeling reference to the loss sustained by the death of Dean Forrest, who had been one of the Governors, and one of the warmest supporters of the College. His place has now been filled by Mr. Wingfield. The report showed that the College was making good progress. The usual speeches were made, the prizes distributed, and a programme of music and a play were gone through by the pupils. Mention must be made of the organ recital, wherewith Mr. Wolstenholme commenced the proceedings. All came away feeling that they had spent a delightful time.

9. On the occasion of the recent Royal visit to Bristol, Her Majesty the Queen graciously consented to receive, through the Duchess of Beaufort, a shawl knitted by a totally blind girl working at 65a, Park Street, in connection with the School of

Industry for the Blind, Queen's Road, Bristol. Her Majesty also purchased some goods knitted by the Blind, and has commanded the Duchess to send the following letter to the knitter of the shawl:—

"The Duchess of Beaufort has received the Queen's command to write and thank Alice Tyley in Her Majesty's name for the beautiful shawl made by her, and which the Queen likes and admires so much.

"The Duchess would like to add, in her own name, how much pleasure it gave her to present the shawl (which was so beautifully knitted) to the Queen."

Alice Tyley is the grand-daughter of the man who pieced together the salver stolen during the Bristol riots.

10. The Second Annual Report (but the first of the very successful Organising Secretary) of the North of England Union, together with an account of the Conference held on May 15th, at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, is published. It is intensely interesting, concise yet withal exhaustive, and therefore, difficult to review. There is so much movement to-day in regard to the formation of Unions, that we strongly recommend readers who have not seen the report, to purchase one (7s. page 138), and they will there see for themselves the splendid work of organisation that has already been done for the six Northern Counties, and gain enthusiasm to do what they can to assist their respective Unions. The proceedings at the Conference, especially in regard to infantile ophthalmia, should be read by all interested in the Blind.

11. The report of the 17th year's work, 1907-8, of that excellent Society known as the "Sunbeam Mission," shows what steady progress is being made in bringing happiness to thousands of poor and suffering children. It commenced in 1891 with 200 members, and now there is a membership of over 62,000, including children in all classes of life. Admiral and Mrs. Battiscombe must indeed be gratified and surprised at the result of their initial efforts made 17 years ago in this great and good cause. But it is especially with the "Blind" branch that

we are interested, and here again the progress is steady, and many blind children have had their lives brightened and cheered by their respective "Sunbeams." This result has been brought about by the constant devotion of Miss B. Taylor, the Hon. Secretary of the Branch, who is always planning some new scheme for furthering the enjoyment of the blind children, and who is ever on the look out for catching more "sunbeams" for those blind children who are still pleading in vain for such support. Will not some of our readers offer themselves as "sunbeams" to Miss Taylor, 39, Sylvan Road, Upper Norwood, S.E., or make known the need amongst their friends? The obligations are few, and much happiness follows as a reward for practical sympathy.

12. A new Home for Blind women has been opened at "The Elms," Eccles Old Road, Pendleton, Manchester. The house is large, well adapted, has a good garden, and will hold 35 blind inmates. Thirteen have been transferred from the old Home at Thornhill, Eccles Old Road, of which the lease ran out last month. The house and grounds have been purchased, but there is a ground rent of £70, and to meet this and the rates and taxes, an effort is being made to raise £3,000 as an endowment fund. The Home is in connection with the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society, and we wish the indefatigable Hon. Secretary, Miss I. M. Heywood, all success in raising the requisite sum. The Home is intended for poor blind women, who are friendless and homeless, and ought not to be allowed to drift into the Workhouse.

13. The "Moon" Society is about to bring before the public a "Moon" Embossing Typewriter, by which the "Moon" type can be used in preparing manuscript books, and also correspondence. This meets a need that has always been felt by the readers of the "Moon" type, and will be greatly welcomed by them. This machine is so arranged that the 400 languages to which the late Dr. Moon adapted his type can be embossed by it. We have seen the machine, and worked it. It is very

easy to manipulate, and promises to be most useful. All particulars can be obtained from Miss Moon, 104, Queen's Road, Brighton.

14. The following books have recently been published in the "Moon" type:—"The Corner Stone," by David Lyall, in 5 vols., each 3/6. "Boscobel," by Harrison Ainsworth, in 10 vols., each 3/6. "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens, in 2 vols., each 3/-. "A Wonder Worker of Science," 2/8. "The Perfect Tribute," by Mary Raymond Andrews, 2/-. "The Yellow Stone National Park, &c., 3/-. "A Visit to the Taj" (from Round the World), by Andrew Carnegie, LL.D., 1/3. "Teufel the Terrier," by Charles Morley, in 2 vols., each 2/4.

The following are printed in Tamil:—The Liturgy, Holy Communion, Collects, the Burial Service, Confirmation Service, and the Book of Genesis.

The following books are in hand: "The Cruise of the Cachelot," Selections from "Les Miserables," by Victor Hugo. "Forgiveness, Life and Glory," by Sir A. Blackwood.

Christmas and New Year's Cards are now ready at 3d., 4d., 5d., and 6d. each.

15. The following books in Braille have recently been added to the Free Public Library at Oxford:—Lawrence's "International Law," Lyall's "British Dominion in India," Robertson's "History of the Christian Church," Ludlow's "Memoirs" and Guides's "Political Economy."

16. The Committee of the Midland Institution for the Blind, Nottingham, have recently been endeavouring to make use of the Swedish looms in the manufacture of tweed cloth, and a satisfactory class of cloth has been produced. Orders have already been received, and a series of patterns will soon be issued. The success of this effort, as stated in the annual report, reviewed on page 121, is the more important, as it will help to give employment to blind women—to provide which is one of the greatest difficulties Managers of Institutions for the Blind have to contend with.

17. The two new workshops in connection with the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, have been erected at Harborne, each 100×45 feet, with commodious mess-room, &c. They will accommodate all the mat department, which has already been transferred there. There are the following machines: two trimming, one combine, one milling, two plaiting, and two massive sewing. There is also one gas engine, and a specially constructed apparatus and chamber for drying mats, the second of its kind yet made. This last apparatus was invented by Mr. Henry Lea, the well-known consulting engineer, who is a member of the Committee of the Institution. Twenty-three looms are erected, or in course of erection, and when necessary, the total number can be increased to 32. The total cost of the workshops is about £3000, part of which sum has already been raised, and the balance will be met by a substantial legacy now due.

18. In paragraph 14 of our last number we mentioned that we hoped to print in this number, Sir James Crichton-Browne's speech at the annual meeting of the Royal Normal College, but as it has already been printed in the "Outlook for the Blind," of which copies were distributed at the Conference, it seems unnecessary for it to appear in these pages.

19. We wish to call the attention of our readers to an interesting report on "Trade Training of the Blind in Germany," by the educational adviser of the London County Council. It can be purchased for 4d., post free 5d., from Messrs. P. S. King & Son, 2, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W. From it we learn that the census of 1900 showed the existence of 34,000 blind people in Germany, out of a total population of $56\frac{1}{4}$ millions. About 3,600 of the Blind were between the ages of 5 and 20. There are about 35 Institutes and 26 Workshops and Homes, which contain about 13,000 inmates. The fact that in 1900 there were about 1,000 blind persons between 5 and 20 years of age lacking suitable instruction has led to a movement in favour of compulsory attendance of all blind children "until they have attained proficiency in some occupation."

INSTITUTIONS.

Birmingham. The 61st Annual Report for the year ended March 31st, 1908, of the General Institution for the Blind, Birmingham, shows that 727 blind persons received direct benefit from the Institution, viz.: 176 resident pupils, 9 day pupils, 13 teachers, 91 day workers, 395 adult Blind, &c., &c. A sum of £79 has been granted to 28 beneficiaries in grants or loans of money, tools, materials, &c. The sales reached the record amount of £12,036, and the wages and augmentation to the blind workers amounted to £3,772. There is a very interesting account of the training of children while at school, contributed by the Matron, and a syllabus of work prepared by the Head Teacher, which appear as an appendix to the report. Reference is made to the two new workshops, which have cost nearly £3,000, and also to the formation of the College of Teachers of the Blind, and the new Unions of Institutions for the Blind. The pupils were very successful in gaining prizes at the Exhibition of Work, held at Weston-super-Mare.

Carlisle. The Report of the Carlisle Association for the Blind, for the year ended November 30th, 1907, shows that 23 blind persons (16 men and 7 women) were employed in the workshops; that the sales amounted to £2,151, and that £792 were paid in wages. Connected with the Workshops, there is a Home for the men who come from a distance, and who are without friends, where everything is provided for them under a matron, and there is no need for guides to take them to their work.. There is a Home Teaching Branch, and the Blind in the district are visited. A partially blind man has been appointed as collector.

Dublin. The report for 1907 of the Richmond National Institution for the Blind, 41, Upper Sackville Street, Dublin, founded in 1810, shows that at the close of the year there were 21 inmates (19 men and two women), and 37 outdoor workers. The sales amounted to £3,961, and the wages to £757.

Dundee. The 39th Annual Report of the Dundee Institution for the Blind for the year ended March 31st, 1908,

shows that at the end of the year there were 93 inmates, viz.: 72 in the industrial, and 21 in the educational department. The sales amounted to £9,170, and £2,078 were paid in wages to blind workers, in addition to £260 paid by way of supplement. There is a Boarding House where 6 adult women, 11 girls, and 6 boys are in residence, and where meals are provided at a nominal figure to the workers in the Institution. There are five workers and one pupil, who are not only blind, but deaf also.

Isle of Wight. The 14th Annual Report of the Isle of Wight Society for the Benefit of the Indigent Blind for the year 1907, states that there are 87 totally or partially blind persons in the island, and gives a list of the names. Of these 60 have received assistance from the Society. There is a Home Teacher, who, with his guide, is granted a free pass on the Isle of Wight railways.

Liverpool. The annual report for 1907 of the Workshops and Home Teaching Society for the Out-Door Blind, Cornwallis Street, Liverpool, was presented at the annual meeting held on April 28th, when the Lord Mayor presided. It states that 131 blind persons were employed, who received £4,269 in wages, and that 5,245 visits had been paid to the Blind. The Benevolent Fund has distributed £41, and eleven annuitants have received amongst them £152 from the Annuity Fund. The sale of manufactured goods amounted to £20,512. Three blind men in uniform make house to house collections. A new workshop is in course of erection, for which a suitable site has been bought for £2,012. A sum of £15,000 was appealed for, and in response thereto £12,162 have been collected.

London. (a) The 28th Annual Meeting of the North London Homes for Blind Men and Women, 77, Hanley Road, Crouch Hill, London, N., was held on May 28th, when the report for the year ended May 21st, 1908, was read and adopted. Accommodation is now provided in all the branches of the Home for 140 inmates and the necessary staff. Reference is made to the resignation of the Rev. J. F. Osborne, who held the

office of Hon. Secretary for 20 years, and to the re-opening of the Home at Southend on the completion of its extension.

(b) The report of the Barclay Workshop for Blind Women, 246, Edgware Road, W., for the year ended March 31st, shows that there are six workers, who receive 7/- a week wages, and where necessary, 1/- a week travelling allowance. In most cases also, 3/- a week are given by the Boards of Guardians, or from the Special Charity Fund. The sale of woven goods amounted to £94, and £104 were paid in wages to the weavers.

(c) The 26th annual report of the West London Workshops for the Blind, 60, High Street, Notting Hill Gate, W., for the year 1907, shows that 41 blind persons were employed, including 17 female chair-caners. The sales amounted to £1,657, and £820 were paid to the Blind in wages and supplements. There are some good reasons given in favour of retaining the workshop notwithstanding the heavy expense of upkeep, and for not disbanding the workpeople to carry on their several employments at their own homes.

(d) The 73rd annual report, ended March 31st, of the Indigent Blind Visiting Society, 8, Red Lion Square, W.C., shows that there are 12 classes held every week, 5 libraries, and 60 persons receiving 2/- a week from Miss Emery's pensions. From the Samaritan Fund a sum of £1,600 was paid in special cases of distress, pensions, &c. Legacies, amounting to £2,591 were received. A report for 9 months, ended October 31st, 1907, of "Eyes to the Blind," is also included. This branch, which provides work for blind girls and sells their products, is managed by Miss L. Douglas-Hamilton, at 17, Callow Street, Fulham Road, S.W.

Newcastle-on-Tyne. The annual meeting of the Workshops for the Adult Blind, Breamish Street, Newcastle, was held on June 12th, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor, when the report for the year ended March 31st, was presented. It shows that the sales amounted to £2,661, of which sum £1,725 were from bedding and upholstery, and that £865 were paid in wages to 28 blind workers.

Northampton. The annual report for 1907 of the Northampton and County Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, shows that 17 blind persons are employed, in addition to 3 others, who sell tea and manufactured articles. Difficulties have been experienced, owing to the manager having absconded, and the defalcations are estimated at £300 to £350. There is a Working-Men's Committee of the Association. The sales amounted to £1,488; £660 were paid in wages, and £93 in grants. The George Phillips Trust granted pensions to 5 blind persons. There is a Blind Sick Benefit Society.

Nottingham. The 64th annual meeting of the Midland Institution for the Blind, Nottingham, was held on July 22nd, when Lord Manvers presided, and the report for the year ended March 31st was adopted. It states that the number of pupils and outworkers is 101, of whom 59 are pupils receiving technical and industrial training, and 42 are workpeople and adult learners. The sales amounted to £7,481. There are two blind collectors and canvassers. The Old Pupils' Fund has assisted 29 blind persons to the aggregate amount of £123 in loans of money, or grants of tools, material, and stock. A sum of £1,339 was paid in wages to blind workpeople and journeymen. Upwards of £6,000 is still required to cover the cost of the new workshops, machinery, &c. There are some excellent illustrations in the report.

Norwich. The report for 1907 of the Asylum and School for the Indigent Blind, Magdalen Street, Norwich, shows that at the close of the year there were 20 males, and 15 females in the Technical School; two males, and ten females in the Asylum, and nine non-resident journeymen. The sales amounted to £634, and the wages to £188.

Reading. The 15th annual report, for the year ended January 31st, of the Reading Blind Aid Society, states that the town has been cleared of all blind beggars except one. A sum of £244 has been distributed in regular allowances, and also grants of coal, provisions, clothing, &c., to all those blind persons who have resided in Reading for seven years. The endowment fund amounts to £2,067.

Wolverhampton. The 33rd annual report for 1907 of the Wolverhampton Society for the Blind was presented at the annual meeting held on May 19th. There are 194 blind people on the register, who are visited by a blind teacher (female). Employment has been found for 19 men and 5 women. The sales amounted to £1,291, and £457 were paid in wages to blind workpeople. The Horseman Fund helped many aged blind people. A legacy of £2,000 has been received.

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN LEGISLATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS DUE TO OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

(A Criticism of the Paper read by Miss Winifred Holt
at the International Congress).

A comparison between the laws on this subject reveals the essential differences in the methods of the two nations. In the United States, as befits the Land of the Free, every State has its own laws: drastic and ill-considered measures are hustled through Legislatures to see how they will work, and the people show their freedom by disobeying them.

In England we prefer to hasten slowly, perhaps too slowly, but when a measure becomes law, we see that it is enforced.

Miss Holt, pinning her faith in the legislation, actual or proposed, of New York State, demands the passing of laws compelling:—

1. The use of a prophylactic instillation of 1% silver nitrate solution into the eyes of every new-born infant (Credé's method modified by the reduction of the solution from 2% to 1%).
2. The notification of every case of ophthalmia neonatorum.

I propose to endeavour to set forth briefly the chief objections to these proposals.

In the first place Miss Holt's statement that "There is no question that even with doctors the unfailing use of a prophylactic

must be made imperative," is indeed open to question. In England there is distinct evidence of a reaction against the routine use of a prophylactic. Strong protests have been made in the medical journals by doctors of great experience, such as Sinclair, of Manchester, Horrocks, of Guy's Hospital, Lovell Drage, of Hatfield.

A proposal for its compulsory use was brought before the Obstetrical Society recently, but failed to gain acceptance.

In a discussion of a paper on ophthalmia neonatorum, which I read before the Liverpool Medical Institution in March last, no one, either obstetric or ophthalmic surgeon, or general practitioner, raised a voice in favour of Credé's method.

But, most significant fact of all, the Central Midwives Board, in their revised instructions to midwives (1907) require only the immediate careful cleansing of the eyelids, and do not even recommend any instillation of antiseptics.

They maintain the principle that the midwife must not be allowed to consider herself competent to treat the eyes in any way, but must call in a doctor at the earliest signs of inflammation. As we all know, many of the disastrous cases are due to the midwife's attempt to treat the eyes herself: but if she were compelled to use one instillation, naturally enough she would fail to understand why she must not use more, *i.e.*, treat the case herself.

This objection, however, would not hold if the instillation of silver nitrate solution were an absolute protection against ophthalmia; but it is not.

In the words of Groenouw, of Breslau, quoted by N. Bishop Harman¹:—

"Credé's method does not prevent the appearance of ophthalmia in every case without exception: on the contrary, it seems not improbable that in some of the less severe catarrhs occurring after birth, the inflammation is entirely due to the irritation produced by the silver salt."

But let us take the evidence of an American believer in the method.²

Cragin, in the practice of the Sloane Maternity Hospital,

used instillation of 2% silver nitrate in 1,000 infants, and had 18 cases of ophthalmia, which all recovered: but the use of this solution caused so much silver catarrh, shown by irritation, oedema, and discharge, that a great deal of the time of the nurses was occupied in applying compresses and irrigating the eyes, and its use, therefore, was abandoned for a 1% solution: with this strength, in 1,000 infants he had 34 cases of ophthalmia, with the loss of one eye. Then in turn were tried protargol 5%, argyrol 10%, and argyrol 20%; and presumably he is still searching for the perfect and unknown antiseptic, which shall be both absolutely deadly to one form of living tissue, bacteria, and absolutely innocuous to another, the human eye.

Contrast the experience of Horrocks, in England³:—

“Since abolishing the routine practice of dropping germicidal solutions into the eyes of every newly-born child in my lying-in ward at Guy’s Hospital, we have only had one case of ophthalmia, and on investigation it was found that this child had had a solution of mercuric chloride dropped into its eyes by mistake, a new sister of the ward having been appointed who did not know my views on the subject. It was only slight inflammation and soon got well, and I feel fairly certain that it was caused by the germicidal solution.”

Twenty years ago, in view of the marvellous reduction in the number of deaths after wounds and surgical operations, a demand for a law compelling the use of the carbolic spray in every operation would have appeared reasonable; but now, looking back, we see how grievously such a law would have obstructed the progress of surgery.

The diminution in blindness due to ophthalmia neonatorum, is coincident with the general diminution in septic diseases, and is due not to Credé’s, or any other special method, but to the recognition of the great law of Lister, that such diseases are due to the presence of bacteria: and just as general surgeons now aim at asepsis rather than antiseptis, so also in the prevention of this disease we must endeavour to avoid the introduction of germs rather than try to destroy them on the assumption of our failure to prevent their entrance.

Miss Holt's second proposition, Compulsory Notification, seems to be based on a misconception of the purpose of the Infectious Diseases Act.

As Mr. John Burns has pointed out, the Act is not intended to interfere with the treatment of the patient, but to provide against the infection of others. Now ophthalmia neonatorum, though contagious, is not carried like scarlatina or smallpox, and with proper care there is no need for isolation.

I confess that I was in favour of compulsory notification, until I began to appreciate the difficulties of enforcing such an Act.

Ophthalmia is not a specific disease like scarlatina, but a generic term for a group of inflammations caused by many different germs, and may vary from a slight catarrh to the severest purulent inflammation. Are all these conditions to be scheduled, or where is the line to be drawn?

If the practitioner is to be punished for non-notification, in self-defence he will notify every case of inflammation, even the slightest. Here is a dilemma. Under Miss Holt's first proposition, every infant will have more or less silver catarrh. Under her second, every case of inflammation must be notified. Therefore, every child born alive, at any rate in New York State, must be notified as suffering from ophthalmia.

In England such a result would be very gratifying to the doctors, owing to the consequent large increase in incomes from half-crown notification fees: but would the ratepayers be equally pleased?

Miss Holt herself, however, is the best witness against the adoption of such a drastic measure. Referring to the census of the Blind in New York State, she writes⁴:—

"One of the most difficult works of the census takers . . . has been to discover blind infants. The reason for this is primarily, perhaps, the fact that the law visits the responsibility of an infant's blindness on the persons in charge at the time of its birth, and if they can be found and evidence given concerning the lack of proper precautions for saving the sight of the new-born child, the midwife or doctor may be imprisoned and also

fined for the child's needless blindness. This leads, naturally, to more than reluctance on the part of these people to admit the existence of blindness in a baby."

So far, I fear, my criticism has been chiefly destructive: but now I hope to show how in England we already have ample powers for dealing with this disease.

Under the Midwives Registration Act of 1902, the Midwives are placed under the control of the local Health Authority, which can insist that in all cases of inflammation of the baby's eyes, a doctor must be called in, under penalty of removal of the midwife from the register for disobedience of this rule.

Furthermore, under the Compulsory Notification of Births' Act, all births must be notified to the Health Authority within 36 hours, with the name of the person in attendance. In this way the Medical Officer of Health gets early notice of cases which are attended only by midwives or handy women.

In Liverpool we have taken advantage of these Acts by the appointment of the Assistant Medical Officer of Health as Inspector of Midwives, with a lady inspector on his staff who visits all these cases as soon as possible after notification. The result is that the midwives are in a condition of wholesome discipline, and report all cases of ophthalmia to a doctor or to the inspector at once.

Moreover, provision has been made for the treatment of cases in St. Paul's Eye Hospital, where infants are admitted with their mothers into a special ward: the difficulty of moving the mothers from their homes having been overcome by the use of one of the city ambulances.⁵

These arrangements provide a complete machinery for the prevention of blindness from ophthalmia neonatorum, and show that in England, at any rate, the existing laws already provide ample powers for dealing with this disease.

Let us therefore endeavour to assist in the intelligent application of the laws which we already possess, rather than wring our hands and cry out for new and untried legislation.

A. NIMMO WALKER, B.A., M.B., B.C. Cantab.

Liverpool.

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2. CRAGIN. "American Journal of Obstetrics," July, 1907.
3. HORROCKS. "British Medical Journal," February 8th, 1908.
4. WINIFRED HOLT. "First Report of the New York Association for the Blind."
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THE MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

The Second International Conference on the Blind has come and gone. To most of us we trust that the abiding impression left upon our minds is that of sincere thankfulness for the manifestly quickened interest, the enlightened sympathy and marked intelligence shown in dealing with the important questions brought forward for discussion. Far above any technical ability in speech, or knowledge of the various subjects, do we place this general *tone* of the Meetings, if we may so express ourselves—this spirit of deep and heartfelt interest in the work, united with courtesy in debate and the real desire to understand each other's point of view, which must at last lead to the attainment of the best and highest end. In all such Conferences there will of course be exceptions to this rule, but we trust that by the steadfast effort to understand one another, even those who seem inclined to rebel against our methods of procedure will become convinced that what is not done in the spirit of love is ill done, and that love without courtesy is a contradiction in terms.

The Conference was preceded by a Festival Dedication Service on Sunday, July 26th, at 6.30 p.m., held in St. Thomas's Church, Old Trafford, the Chapel of Henshaw's Blind Asylum and the Royal Deaf Schools, which was largely attended by members. The Lessons were read by Mr. W. H. Illingworth, Superintendent of Henshaw's, and the Chaplain, the Rev. W. E.

Harston Morris preached the sermon. The anthem "Lord Thou art God" by Dr. Stainer, was most effectively rendered, with a very beautiful solo, sung by Mr. J. Collett, of the Manchester Cathedral Choir.

The first session of the Conference was held on Monday, July 27th, at 2 p.m., in the Central Hall, Oldham Street. Owing to the sad circumstance of the Earl of Derby's sudden death on June 14th the chair was taken by Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Secretary of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, and Chairman of the Conference Committee, who called upon the Rev. Herbert Marston, M.A., to open the proceedings with prayer.

A resolution of deep sympathy with Lord Derby's family was passed, and ordered to be forwarded. Lord Haddington had also been approached on the subject of taking the chair, but excused himself on the ground of the day being his 81st birthday, and his family's natural wish that he should spend it with them. A telegram of congratulation was despatched by universal request. Mr. Joynson-Hicks, M.P., for North West Manchester was unable to undertake the duty owing to his being obliged to attend a very important case in the Law Courts. The reports of the Conference Committee and of the National Committee for the Employment of the Blind were read by the respective Secretaries, Mr. W. H. Illingworth and Mr. H. W. P. Pine. The latter report was made the occasion of some attempt at discussion, but this was ruled out of order by the Chairman. An able paper was then read by Miss I. M. Heywood, Founder and Hon. Sec., of the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society on "The Housing of the Blind" and dealt with the difficult question as to how best to provide for the blind living outside the Institutions, of course by far the larger proportion. Every effort should be made to encourage independence and the effort to live a natural home life, but there will always be a large residuum of cases in which this cannot be done, such as the friendless, the inefficient, and the aged and infirm. In these cases perhaps small colonies might be founded, something on the lines of the Queen of Roumania's experiment, where work could be provided for those who can work, and where old people and chronic

invalids, now barely existing, could be made comfortable for the rest of their lives.

The discussion was opened by Miss Winifred Holt, secretary of the New York Association of the Blind, who described the methods of the institution with which she is connected, and advocated switchboard operating being taught to the blind, an occupation in which they could compete with the sighted. Dr. Moon of Philadelphia and several other members continued the discussion, but as there seemed to be some considerable misapprehension as to Miss Heywood's recommendations, the latter pointed out in her reply that there was not the smallest intention of discouraging home life among the blind where it could *possibly* be maintained, but merely to provide for those many unhappy cases in which such maintenance was out of the question.

In the evening the members of the Conference were most kindly and hospitably entertained at dinner by the Board of Management of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, in the large hall of the Royal Schools for the Deaf, kindly lent for the occasion. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Manchester, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Salford were present. The members afterwards attended a performance of Mr. W. H. Illingworth's Kinderspiel, "Old Father Time," by the pupils of the Blind Asylum, in the Concert Hall, and the wonderful precision and spirit of the acting induced the almost universal remark, "Who could believe that they are blind?" The mingled humour and pathos of the piece seemed as thoroughly enjoyed by the performers as they certainly were by the audience, and many exclamations of wonder and pleasure were heard at its close, and hearty congratulations given to Mr. Illingworth, the author and chief organiser of the play.

The second session of the Conference was held on Tuesday, July 28th, at 10 a.m. The Chair was taken by the Lord Mayor of Manchester, who expressed the difficulty of dealing with the Blind after they left the training homes. A paper by Mr. E. Green, Superintendent of the Missouri School for the Blind, St. Louis, U.S.A., was read by Mr. W. H. Illingworth on the "Technical Education and Employment of the Blind in the

United States." It was the chief aim of the training to make blind men and women independent of charity, and to this end they endeavoured in every way to extend the field of occupations for the Blind, in which much invaluable assistance had been rendered by Mr. Charles F. F. Campbell, through the experiment station for industrial work, founded by him in 1904, and also by the New York Association for the Blind.

Mr. Charles Campbell opened the discussion, and some speakers following strongly advocated State Aid, which was opposed by Mr. Illingworth's experience, who said he could not believe in giving doles to the inefficient and useless, but would like to see the sort of State Aid given that would make it criminal not to prevent blindness, and a suggestion was made by another speaker that the Conference should send the case for State Aid in respect to this question, for the consideration of the Minister for Education.

Dr. Fraser, Superintendent of the Halifax School for the Blind, Nova Scotia, wrote a paper on the "Commercial Training of the Blind in Canada," which was also read by Mr. Illingworth, and explained a system of double entry book-keeping that had been adopted as suitable. He thought that quite 25 per cent. of the Blind could engage in commercial pursuits with a reasonable hope of success.

Mr. Stainsby, Superintendent of the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, opened the discussion, and in the course of his speech very much deplored the general attitude of the Clergy towards blind organists, etc., who applied for employment.

One very interesting fact transpired during the discussions of this morning's session as to the proving of a Will written in Braille by a blind person, with sighted witnesses. This happened in Scotland.

In the afternoon, Miss E. Massey, of the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society, read a paper on Pensions for the Blind, the principal interest of which and of the following discussion lay in the disqualifying (or otherwise) effect of parish relief. Miss Massey deprecated the idea that a blind person receiving such relief should be debarred a pension, and suggested

the formation of a Committee to investigate and recommend the claims of the necessitous Blind to the various Pension Societies.

Mr. H. J. Wilson, who opened the discussion, disagreed with Miss Massey's views as to pensions, which in undeserving cases merely served to encourage idleness, if not worse. Persons of bad moral character should be sternly eliminated from the pension list, as also those receiving parish relief within one year or so of application. In the cases where pensions were granted he thought it better to grant adequate ones, and could see no harm in persons receiving more than one, as long as those who granted them knew all the facts. In the future it was probable that the Old Age Pensions Bill would do much now done by the Charities.

The discussion was continued with much animation by several speakers: the Rev. T. Burns (Edinburgh), Mr. J. R. Burne (Manchester), Miss Holt (New York), and the Rev. St. Clare Hill (Leatherhead). The whole debate was summed up in a masterly commentary by the Rev. H. Marston, Belgrave Chapel, London, who spoke clearly and concisely against the case for Socialism, and regarded State Aid as only permissible where all private effort failed. Only good moral character could constitute any claim to a pension, and the idea that blindness *per se*, or any other physical deprivation set up the right of the afflicted person to live at the expense of men and women perhaps far more worthy than themselves, was destructive to a sound basis of human society.

In the evening the members of the Conference attended a reception most kindly held by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Manchester, at the Town Hall, and were greatly interested in being shown the various points of that noble building, more particularly the Great Hall, with its striking frescoes by Ford Madox Brown, representing incidents in the history of the City. Messrs. Forsyth's Military Band, and the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society's Glee Club dispensed sweet music, and an extremely humorous entertainment was given by Mr. Percy French. The members of the Conference spent a thoroughly enjoyable and interesting evening, and will long remember Manchester's hospitality.

On Wednesday, August 29th, in lovely weather, the members went by special train, at 9.30 a.m., to Liverpool, and held a session in the Gordon Hall, Blackburne Place. They were most kindly welcomed by the Lord Mayor, who spoke with much vigour and true feeling on the important subject of preventable blindness, and trusted that in the future the carrying out of the means for such prevention would be most strictly and rigidly enforced. On his lordship's departure, owing to his many engagements, the Chair was taken by Mr. Wade Deacon, President of the Liverpool School for the Blind, and a very interesting and useful paper on "Recreations for the Blind," was read by Mr. W. Littlewood, Head Master of the Wavertree School for the Blind, Liverpool, in which he pointed out the need that still existed to convince people that the Blind required air, light, and healthy exercise for the body as much as or even more than the sighted. He gave a list of games that included almost all those common to sighted people, and suitable both to the young and the adult Blind.

Mr. Guy Campbell, Vice-Principal of Norwood College, who opened the discussion, urged the importance of competitive sports, as they encouraged not only the necessary enthusiasm, but self restraint and good humour. He much hoped to see the formation of a National Physical Recreation Society for the Blind, which would be a real and practical lift to the cause of the Blind in the future.

During the following discussion Mrs. Campbell described with great clearness, and in a most interesting manner, obstacle races as carried out by the girls at Norwood College, for which prizes were given, and which evoked much keen enjoyment.

In the afternoon the members of the Conference paid visits to the different Institutions and Workshops for the Blind, many driving out to the Yew Tree Road School in brakes kindly provided by the authorities of the Liverpool Catholic Blind Asylum. At 5 o'clock, a reception most largely attended, was held by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Liverpool, in the noble Town Hall, and thus closed a memorable and most enjoyable day. It should never be forgotten that Liverpool was

the first place in Great Britain to start an Institution for the Blind.

The Conference of Thursday, August 30th, opened with a paper by Mlle. Jacqueline Chevenin, of the Valentin Haüy Institution for the Blind, Paris, who was strongly of opinion that a musical career was the most profitable one the Blind could undertake. She also advocated massage as an increasing source of profit. The discussion was opened by Rev. St. Clare Hill.

Following this paper was one read by Mr. Tadasu Yoshimoto, from Tokyo, Japan, a gentleman deputed by the Japanese Government to inspect and report upon the methods practised in our Institutions, Schools, and Workshops. His account of the progress of matters relating to the Blind in Japan was most effective and interesting, especially since the change in 1870, when the Government adopted European methods, and ceased giving pensions to the Blind. This had worked well in developing character and independence, and there are at this present moment seventeen schools for the Blind, and twenty schools for the Blind and Dumb.

The Rev. Arthur Taylor, Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, not long returned from a tour round the world to visit our Foreign Mission Stations, opened the discussion with an account of what was being done for the Blind in China, India, and other far distant countries.

Miss Winifred Holt, of New York, followed with a paper on Preventable Blindness, urging that greatly increased attention to the eyes at birth should be made compulsory, and neglect of the simple precautions necessary to preserve sight made criminal.

Mr. J. M. Ritchie (Henshaw's Blind Asylum) followed on the same lines, and quoted Dr. Harman's pronouncement as to such precautions resulting in the almost total extinction of blindness resulting from purulent ophthalmia at birth. He trusted some course of action would speedily be resolved upon to practically abolish the ghastly 40 per cent of blindness that such cases now attained.

In the afternoon session Mr. Ritchie read a paper on the Psychology of Blindness, and that, and the following debate,

opened by Mr. Dixon, of Oxford, reached a very high level of thought and argument.

Mr. Illingworth maintained that human beings were possessed of more senses than they were aware of, because life had not made it necessary to develop them, and we fancy most students of psychology will agree with him. Several other speakers gave opinions of much value and helpfulness, and at the close of this session the members were conveyed in special cars to a garden party at Buile Hill Park, most kindly given by the Mayor and Mayoress of Salford. The hours spent in this beautiful park were thoroughly enjoyed, and at its close a photograph was taken of the entire party with great success.

In the evening about 200 of the members were taken for an interesting cruise on the Manchester Ship Canal, that wonderful feat of engineering skill in triumphing over difficulties.

The fifth day of the Conference, Friday, August 31st, opened with some extremely valuable and interesting remarks on State Aid, by the Mayor of Salford, Mr. Alderman Frankenburg, who took the chair. He was of opinion that private management of charities was likely to be more sympathetic, more thorough, and certainly more economical, and thought that to supersede personal interest would be a great blow to the charities, but that it might, with benefit, be assisted to some slight degree by the State, which would at all events have the merit of obliging those persons who now, however able, gave nothing to the charities, to subscribe indirectly through taxation.

Mr. Harry E. Platt, Professor of Music at the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, then read a paper on "Music for the Blind," and urged that all blind children who could join in the ordinary school life should be taught music, and recommended the piano and organ as the best instruments for them to learn. He was rather severe on the unfortunate attitude taken up by many of the clergy towards blind organists, who were often denied even a hearing, and said that, in a Christian country, these things ought not so to be. The discussion was opened by Mr. E. Watson, A.R.C.O. Dr. Campbell, in the discussion,

said that his experience with ministers of religion as regarded the appointment of blind organists was quite different from that of Mr. Platt. It was agreed that the matter might usefully be brought before the various diocesan conferences.

The Dean of Manchester (Bishop Welldon), presiding at the afternoon session, said that he hoped and believed that the Blind had compensations to which sighted people were strangers, in that they could better concentrate themselves on the higher and greater matters for human thought.

The paper for the afternoon was upon the condition of the Blind in Ireland and how best it might be improved, read by Mr. Mulholland, Missioner to the Out-door Blind of Belfast. The fact of there being no compulsory education for blind children in Ireland, was a very great drawback to dealing with them, and he would welcome Government inspection as a guarantee of efficiency and good administration. Mr. George Dickie, Ulster Institution for the Blind, Belfast, opened the discussion, which was actively carried on by the advocates for State Aid, and the general upshot of opinion arrived at was in favour of compulsory education.

Friday evening was devoted by the members of the Conference to visiting Belle Vue, to which they were kindly invited by Mr. Jennison, the proprietor, and other places of interest.

Saturday morning, the 1st of August, Alderman J. Royle, J.P., Chairman of Henshaw's Asylum, in the chair, was devoted to various reports of the progress in matters relating to the Blind since the Edinburgh Conference in 1905, and the formation of various Committees. Short reports were read by Mr. Stainsby on "Education of the Blind," by Mr. Illingworth on "Higher Education," by Mr. H. J. Wilson on "The Defective Blind," by Mr. J. Frew Bryden on "The Out-door Blind of Scotland," and by Mr. Tate on "Boards of Guardians and their relation to the Blind," as addenda to the papers read by the same men on these subjects in 1905, thus bringing all information up to date. A letter from Mr. Hewitt was read in lieu of a paper on "Employment," by Mr. Macdonald.

Reports on the following Institutions, which had been

founded during the past three years, were also read:—The Northern Union of Societies, by Miss E. Wright; The Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union, by Mr. Guy M. Campbell; The College of Teachers of the Blind, by Mr. H. J. Wilson; The Superintendents' Association, and also the Co-ordination of London Workshops for the Blind, by the Rev. St. Clare Hill. It was also reported that Unions of Societies were in process of formation for the West of England, for the Central Counties, and for North Wales and Cheshire.

The following Committees were appointed by the Conference:—

(1) *Committee for Organising the Conference to be held in 1911*: Miss Austin, Mr. J. Frew Bryden, Dr. Campbell, Councillor Collingwood, Mr. W. H. Dixon, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Rev. N. F. McNeile, Messrs. Maddocks, Munby, Pine, Platt, Siddall, Stainsby, Stone, H. J. Wilson, and Miss Wright.

(2) *National Committee for the Employment of the Blind*: Messrs. Hartley and Hewitt, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mr. Illingworth, Rev. H. Kingdon, Messrs. Macdonald, Meeson, Mullins, Norwood, Pine, Priestley, Stainsby, Stott, and H. J. Wilson.

(3) *Committee on Preventable Blindness*: Councillor Collingwood, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. Littlewood and Ritchie, Councillor Warner, and Mr. H. J. Wilson, with power to add to their number.

(4) *Committee on Pensions*: Councillor Collingwood, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Miss Massey, Mr. Purse, Dr. Ranger, Messrs. Tate and H. J. Wilson.

General instructions were issued by the Conference that the reports of the various Committees appointed by this Conference be printed and circulated before being submitted to the delegates at the next Conference.

Instructions were also given to the "Conference Committee," (a) to try to obtain a concession from the various Railway Companies to allow a blind man and his guide to travel as one person, and (b) to draw up rules and formulate a British Physical Recreation Society for the Blind.

After the usual vote of thanks the proceedings were brought to a close with prayer, by the Rev. N. F. McNeile, M.A.

The exhibition, which was perhaps more representative and more interesting than any previous one, was opened by the Lady Mayoress of Manchester, on July 24th. It was held in three rooms in the same building as the Conference Hall, and a little more space would have been beneficial both for exhibitors and for delegates, but we know how difficult it is to arrange for the display of goods sent in at the last moment.

In conclusion we should like to thank Mr. Illingworth, Mr. Phillips, and the Local Committee for all the time and trouble so freely and ungrudgingly bestowed upon the organisation of the Conference. Their best reward will be the good results we hope will spring from it. It was unfortunate that so many of the Chairmen announced to preside were unable to fulfil their engagements, but that was not the fault of the organisers. The value of these meetings, if only in making workers among the Blind personally known to each other, can hardly be overestimated, for all will agree that even into the sincerest and most careful work the personal equation enters largely, and that to correspond with a total stranger, and with a person even slightly known, are two very different things. By the time this article goes to press, it is most probable that the Official Report of the Conference will have been published, and can be obtained, price 2/6, or by post 2/10, from Mr. Illingworth, Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Old Trafford, Manchester. From the same source copies of the Handbook can be obtained at the reduced price of 3/- a dozen, carriage paid.

NORTH OF ENGLAND UNION OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

The International Conference in July at Manchester has absorbed the thoughts and interests of us all during the last quarter, so that there is little to record for the Northern Union this month that will not be alluded to elsewhere.

The next quarterly meeting of the General Committee is to be held at York, on October 10th. Fresh circulars have been issued, to bring all up to date, and the reports of the Annual Meeting held at Newcastle last May are ready, and have been sent out to those who ordered copies. These copies, 1/- each, may be had from Mr. Robertson, Royal Victoria Blind School, Benwell Dene, Newcastle, or from Miss E. Wright, Northgate, Wakefield. They contain the first year's record of work done by the Union, and all the papers read at the Conference in May last.

The last quarterly meeting was held at Southport on June 24th, when the following resolution was carried:—

“That after careful consideration, the Committee of the North of England Union of Societies for the Blind, is of opinion that it is impracticable and undesirable to define or limit the area within which any particular Institution may solicit support, either for trading or charitable purposes. The Committee, therefore, recommends that direct competition should be avoided, wherever possible, and that no action should be taken that would be likely to prejudice the sale of products of Blind labour.”

On the same day, the following Sub-Committee was elected to serve for a year, to deal with the question of Employment for Blind Women, viz.: Mr. A. B. Norwood, York; Miss Field, Oldham; Miss Burnett, Colne; Miss Prior, Leeds; Mr. Stevenson, Accrington; with the two secretaries, Miss I. M. Heywood, and Miss E. Wright, ex-officio.

It may be of interest to note that Miss E. Wright, as organising Secretary to the Northern Union, has been invited to attend the initial meetings of two of the proposed new Unions, viz.: that for the Western Counties at Bristol, on October 17th, and that for Cheshire and North Wales, at Chester, on October 15th. Miss Heywood will accompany her to the latter.

COLLEGE OF TEACHERS OF THE BLIND.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held at the offices of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, at 2.30 p.m., on October 3rd, when there were present: Rev. T. Barnard, Miss Garaway, Miss L. Douglas-Hamilton, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mr. Illingworth, Rev. H. Kingdon, Messrs. Littlewood, Maddocks, Norwood, Pearson, Pine, Stainsby, W. Ernest Taylor, and Henry J. Wilson (Chairman).

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The Chairman referred to the loss sustained by the College, by the death of Mr. John T. Taylor, and was requested to write to the widow a letter of sympathy.

Letters of regret, for their inability to attend the meeting, were received from the Hon. A. M. Kinnaird and Mr. B. P. Jones.

Mr. Henry Stainsby was unanimously elected Hon. Registrar Mrs. Greg, Mr. Jolly, Dr. Fletcher Little, and Mr. McHardy having signified their consent to serve on the Council, were duly elected. The financial statement was presented and authority given to pay several accounts. The examiners presented a full and most instructive report on the candidates attending the examination last July, and reported that seven—the names are given below—had obtained certificates. Copies of the examination papers, price 6d. the set, can be obtained on application to Mr. Illingworth, Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Old Trafford, Manchester. The examiners were thanked for their kind offices, and were requested to draw up as soon as convenient, the syllabus for 1909. The annual meeting, at which a report on the College from its commencement up to December 31st, 1908, will be read, was provisionally fixed for Saturday, February 6th, 1909.

The following candidates gained diplomas at the late examination of the College, all passing with honours:—Mr. Joseph Crocker passed with honours in two subjects; Miss Susie G. McKenrick in one subject; Miss Margaret Morris in one subject; Mr. John M. Ritchie in three subjects; Miss Phoebe Schofield in one subject; Mr. Lister S. Smith in four subjects; and Mr. Charles F. Tivey in three subjects.

UNION OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND IN THE METROPOLITAN AND ADJACENT COUNTIES.

A meeting of the Council was held at the offices of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, at 12 noon, on October 3rd, when there were present: Mr. Henry J. Wilson in the Chair, Miss Austin, Miss E. M. Bainbrigg, Sir John Brickwood, Dr. Campbell, Mr. Guy Campbell (Hon. Sec.), Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mr. Stuart Johnson (Hon. Treasurer), Mr. W. Lempriere, Mr. McHardy, Mr. W. P. Merrick, Miss Moon, and Miss B. Taylor. Mr. Stainsby was also present as a visitor.

The minutes of the meeting of July 4th having been circulated, were taken as read and signed.

Letters of regret for inability to attend the meeting were reported from Mrs. Inglis, Rev. and Mrs. H. Bright, Miss Martin, Rev. Barton Mills, Mr. Dustow, and Mr. Wagg.

It was reported that the anonymous gift of £100 had been paid and placed on deposit at the Bank. The Hon. Treasurer presented his financial statement, and was authorised to draw two specified cheques.

The Hon. Secretary reported that the Chief Constables of all the Counties, except one, had given hearty and willing assistance to secure the information required by the Union about the Blind, and that already forms for 272 women, and 320 men had been returned fully filled in. These had been excellently classified by the Hon. Secretary, who was empowered to take the necessary steps to see that those over the age of 70 years—a very large proportion—are put in the way of applying for the Government pension.

Mr. Stainsby was unanimously elected a member of the Council. It was agreed that the Executive Committee should meet at 12 noon, on the first Saturday of each month, excepting January, August, and September, and that the next meeting of the Council be provisionally fixed for Saturday, February 6th, 1909, at 12 noon.

The Blind.

VOL. III.

No. 45.

JANUARY 20TH, 1909.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before March 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

Miss Winifred Holt, of the New York Association for the Blind, has written a reply to Dr. Nimmo Walker's paper, which appeared in our last number, but we much regret that it is crowded out of this number. It will, appear, however, in the next. The insertion of other matters has also had to be deferred.

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. Many of our readers will learn with real sorrow that Mr. Andrew Mair Peden, whose successes have from time to time been recorded in our pages, died after an illness of only two days at the Royal Blind Asylum and School, West Craigmillar, Edinburgh, on October 1st. He had just reached his 21st year, and the coming Session would have seen him attain the completion of his University course. That he would have graduated with high distinction there is little doubt, in fact, his

prospects of obtaining First-Class Honours were of the brightest. Mr. Peden was born at Galston, Ayrshire, and lost his sight in infancy. He attended the Public School of his native village, and the whole of his school career was a conspicuous success. Bursary followed bursary, till he reached the climax in gaining the Galston Educational Trust Bursary, which carried him to the University. There the triumphs of his school career were even exceeded, and his class results each year were such as would have done high honour to students with the gift of sight.

In his opening lecture to his class in Philosophy at Edinburgh University, Professor Seth made the following reference: "I cannot begin the work of this Session without a reference to the great loss which the student body, and more especially the students of philosophy in its higher reaches, have sustained in the death, within the last few days, of that gifted member of their band, Andrew Peden. I little thought, when, on the closing day of last winter Session, I handed him the prize he had earned so well, that before the beginning of another Session his earthly career would have reached its swift and sudden close. But yesterday we sadly committed his body to the grave. I had been brought into such intimate relation with him ever since he came up to the University, and had watched the development of his mind with such singular interest and satisfaction, that my sense of personal loss makes it difficult for me to speak of what he was to me, and to so many of his teachers and fellow-students. I have rarely known a student so single-minded, so true-hearted, so courageous, so loyal to all that is best and worthiest in human life. Every year he was developing in moral and intellectual culture, and we all looked forward to his taking a high degree next April, and beyond that, we had predicted for him a career of unusual usefulness, for we knew that he would use well his great gifts of mind and heart in the service of his fellows. But that was not to be, at least in the way we had hoped for him. And yet, according to a wiser measure of human attainment, do we not feel that "Nothing is here for tears?" He made the best use of his brief opportunity, and what better could be said of any man? In my last conversation with him, a few days

before the end, I was greatly struck by his maturity of character, and although he was even then full of plans for his future career, I cannot but feel now, with all the fond regrets that the contemplation of his young life suggests, that it was a life singularly complete, or if not complete, then pointing for its completion to some higher sphere and form of service, and fulfilment, rather than to a prolongation of its earthly term of discipline and education."

2. We are much pleased to be able to announce that the Right Hon. Lord Kinnaid has kindly consented to preside at the first annual meeting of the Council of the College of Teachers of the Blind, to be held at 2.30 p.m., on Saturday, February 6th, at the office of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

3. A blind French gentleman, who cannot speak English, is coming to England about Easter, to visit the chief Institutions for the Blind, and the editor has been requested to find, if possible, an Englishman who speaks French fluently, and would act as companion and interpreter. Can any of our readers help us? If so, will they kindly write to the editor with particulars, and state the amount of remuneration required.

4. William Jackson, formerly of the Royal Normal College, has gained the Fawcett Scholarship at Oxford; and Alfred Chapple, also of the Royal Normal College, a Gardner Scholarship at Cambridge.

5. At the Government Examination for Teacher's Certificate, held in July last at the Smith Training College, Martha Whitnall passed with distinction in Principles and Practice of Teaching, English Language, Literature, Composition, History and Geography. Elsie Bausor passed with distinction in English Language, Literature, and Composition. Florence Shiell passed the Preliminary Examination for Certificate. The above were students at the Royal Normal College.

6. Mr. John Emblen, Teacher in the Class for Blind Children, Bolton, passed the Certificate Examination with distinction in English Language, Literature, and Composition.

7. Mr. William Henry Thurman, who has been for the past ten years the Clerk to the Special Schools Sub-Committee, under the Birmingham Education Committee, has been appointed General Superintendent and Secretary of the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, in the room of Mr. Henry Stainsby, who is now General Superintendent and Secretary of the British and Foreign Blind Association. Part of Mr. Thurman's duties has been to look after the blind children belonging to Birmingham, and to see that they were sent to the local Institution for the Blind.

8. In July, William Laurie and Victor Spanner, of the Royal Normal College, passed the Fellowship Examination of the College of Organists. Within a year, Spanner has passed the Associate and Fellowship Examinations of the Royal College of Organists and the Licentiate Examination of the Royal Academy of Music for pianoforte playing.

9. An interesting function took place at the General Institution for the Blind, Birmingham, on December 15th, when several presentations were made to Mr. Henry Stainsby, who is resigning the post of General Superintendent and Secretary, to take up a similar office with the British and Foreign Blind Association, London.

Mr. Registrar Lowe, the energetic Chairman of the Institution, who has contributed so largely of his time and means to promote its interests, presided, and there were present, the Ven. Archdeacon Owen, Mr. E. M. Goodman, late Chairman of the Institution, members of the Committee and their friends, honorary officers, staff, out-workers, pupils and representatives of the Home Teaching Branch. Many speeches were made bearing testimony to Mr. Stainsby's long service in the cause of the Blind.

A most graceful tribute has been paid to Mr. Stainsby's work by the inauguration of a Pension Fund which is to bear his name, to provide pensions for deserving blind persons. As a nucleus for this Fund, the sum of £250 has been contributed by members of the Committee, Staff, Hon. Officers, and other friends, without any appeal having yet been made to the public. The Fund will be managed by the Committee of the Birmingham Institution as one of its branches, and it is hoped that in course of time it will increase to such an extent that many blind pensioners may have cause to remember Mr. Stainsby's work in Birmingham.

On the occasion of the presentations, the Chairman handed to Mr. Stainsby a copy of the rules governing the Pension Fund, engrossed on vellum. The Chairman also announced that the Committee had decided to make Mr. Stainsby an Hon. Life-Governor of the Institution.

In addition to these, a very handsome dining-room suite and an inlaid mahogany bed-room suite were given to Mr. Stainsby by the Committee and friends, and a writing desk and chair were presented by the Staff, Hon. Officers, Workers and Friends. To this desk was attached a silver plate bearing the following inscription:—

“Presented to Mr. Henry Stainsby (together with a gift to Mrs. Stainsby) by the past and present Hon. Officers, Staff, Workers, Friends and Pupils of the General Institution for the Blind, Birmingham, in sincere appreciation of his devoted labours, expert knowledge and sympathetic efforts during the long period of 28 years spent in earnest endeavours to benefit the Blind.

At the same time, to perpetuate Mr. Stainsby's name in connection with the Institution, the sum of £250 was subscribed by the Committee, Hon. Officers, Staff and Friends of the Institution, to inaugurate a Fund to be called ‘The Henry Stainsby Pension Fund for the Blind.’ December, 1908.”

A number of the blind workers gave Mr. Stainsby a very handsome presentation fountain pen, suitably inscribed, while

the little children of the Kindergarten School, not to be outdone, made an offering of a perfect and elegant miniature tea set, consisting of many pieces, all being beautifully made in bead-work by 25 of their number. From the Teaching Staff of the Kindergarten School there also came a large photograph of the School, handsomely framed. The smaller girls of the Main Institution contributed a dozen serviette rings of bead-work, and it is the intention of the boys to give Mr. Stainsby a pair of silver candlesticks for his new writing desk. Mr. A. R. Gaul, Mus. Bac., Head Music Master of the Institution, gave Mr. Stainsby a complete set of his eight Cantatas, including his well-known "Holy City," "Ruth," &c., bound in red cloth, with gilt edges, together with a signed and framed photograph of himself.

On the same occasion a very beautiful spirit kettle and stand were presented to Mrs. Stainsby.

10. We much regret that two errors occurred in our last number—the one, that Miss Edith Wright's name was omitted from the Committee on Preventable Blindness, elected at the Manchester Conference; and the other, that copies of the papers set at the recent examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind could be obtained, price 6d. the set, from Mr. Illingworth, instead of from Mr. Henry Stainsby, Registrar of the College, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W., to whom all communications in connection with the College should, in future, be addressed.

11. Col. Colquhoun has resigned his position as Chairman of the Workshops for the Blind, 258, Tottenham Court Road, W., and Col. Selfe, R.A. having vacated the secretaryship, Mr. Howard E. Mullins, who has hitherto acted as Manager, has been appointed Secretary and Manager.

12. The official report of the International Conference on the Blind, held last July, at Manchester, has been published, and can be obtained, price 2/6, or by post 2/10, from Mr. Illingworth, Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Old Trafford, Manchester.

Mr. Illingworth is to be congratulated not only on having published it very expeditiously—easily beating all records as far as we can ascertain—but also on the letterpress which represents very accurately what took place at the Conference. The volume is neatly bound, and the photograph of the group well reproduced. The partial eclipse! of Mr. Yoshimoto's face is, however, to be deplored, as no one was more heartily welcomed at the Conference, and his paper on the Blind in Japan was certainly one of the most attractive of all the interesting proceedings.

13. During the past year, Captain Peirson Webber, Poultry Expert for Warwickshire, gave a number of popular lectures by invitation of the Warwickshire County Council, visiting Kenilworth, Warwick, Kerseley, Southam, and Leamington-Hastings, every centre recording a hearty vote of thanks to the Lecturer for the practical nature and interest of the instruction given. During the spring and summer months, Lectures on Profitable Poultry Management were given at Griff House Dairy School, and a little later in the season we find Captain Webber busy for two days giving demonstrations and lectures to crowded audiences at the Warwickshire County Agricultural Show. It is reported that the skill displayed in the dressing of poultry, and the Lecturer's wide and practical grasp of the problem in all its branches, can only be fully appreciated by personal experience. Further lectures have been received with equal popularity at Hatton, again at Southam, Ettington, Bulkington, Flecknoe, Rowington, Newton-Regis, and Cherington. We understand that Northamptonshire has also invited Captain Peirson Webber to lecture for the County.

14. In the programme of the Royal College of Music "Patron's Fund" Concert, at Queen's Hall, a Scena for soprano and orchestra, composed by Miss Emily Lucas, of the Royal Normal College, was performed. It was well received, and Miss Lucas was twice called to the platform at the close of the piece. During the recent Exhibition in Edinburgh, Mr. Alfred Hollins, Mr. Harry Turner, and Mr. Robert Leitch, all old students of the Royal Normal College, were each engaged for a week's Organ Recitals.

15. Mr. H. G. Warrilow, Organist of S. Barnabas Church, Oxford, and an old pupil of the Royal Normal College, has arranged a series of recitals in Oxford in order to show what blind organists can do. Recitals have already been given by Mr. Victor Spanner and by Miss Emily Lucas.

16. Mr. W. Mead, Superintendent of the Indigent Blind Visiting Society, has organised a Special Mission to the London Blind and their Guides. Two meetings have already been held in the north and west districts, when over 700 blind persons and their guides attended each time. A meeting is to be held in the south, and the final one in the east of London.

17. The Editor of the "Weekly Summary for the Blind," a newspaper in Braille published every Wednesday, 2d. post free, Shere, Surrey, has brought out an excellent Shakespere Calendar for 1909 in Braille. There is a pretty design of swallows on the cover, and there are quotations from Shakespere for each month. It consists of 7 sheets tied with ribbon, and the price is only 1/1 post free. The seventh series of the text book, "Day by Day," giving a text and devotional reading for every day of the month, consistng of 16 sheets in interpointed Braille, can also be obtained from the same source for 8d., post free, and also Christmas Cards, price 7d. post free, with appropriate words.

18. The following books, in Braille, have recently been added to the Free Public Library, Oxford:—Burke's American Taxation, and Speech on Conciliation. Aristotle's Politics. Carter's English Legal Institutions. Epistles of St. John and St. Jude in Greek. Euclid, Books IV., V., VI., XI. and XII. Euripides' Medea (translated by Gilbert Murray). Eusebius, Books IV. & V. Ludlow's Memoirs (edited by Firth). Gardiner's Puritan Revolution. Homer's Odyssey, Books I. to V. and XV. to XXIV. Plato's Republic (with Jowett's translation). Pullen's Church of the Fathers. Ramsay's Church in the Roman Empire. Westcott's Study of the Gospels.

19. The October number of the "Outlook for the Blind"

is as interesting as ever, and has a most elaborate table of statistics, which alone must have given much trouble and taken up much time to compile. A sample copy of the "Outlook," free of expense, will be sent to any one of our readers who would like to see a copy with a view to possibly becoming a subscriber. All letters should be addressed to the Editor, 277, Harvard Street, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.

20. A meeting was held on November 10th, "Founder's Day," to commemorate the 47th anniversary of the Bradford Institution for the Blind, when Mr. F. Priestman, J.P., presided and gave an account of the work of the Institution, mentioning that 144 blind persons were employed, and that 120 blind persons had been able to have a holiday at Southport or elsewhere, owing to the fund amounting to £147 15s. 4d., raised by shillings through the *Bradford Daily Telegraph*. Mr. Colin Macdonald, of the Dundee Institution, was the chief speaker, and gave an interesting and helpful address on employment for the Blind. The prizes recently gained by those who exhibited some of their work at Manchester and Weston-super-Mare, were distributed by the Lady Mayoress. Mr. Siddall, of Rochdale, gave a short address, and also took part in the concert.

21. The foundation stone of the new workshops for the Blind, Cornwallis Street, Liverpool, was laid on December 1st, by Sir William P. Hartley, who gave an excellent address on the art of giving. The Lord Mayor presided. The estimated cost of the new building is £15,000, and there will be accommodation for about 200 men, with good storage space for materials.

22. The fees at the Barclay Home for blind girls have been raised to £30 per annum for those under 16 years of age, and to £26 5s. per annum for those above that age.

23. It may interest our readers to know that Mrs. S. A. Gray, The Manse, Barnsley, who was editor of the "Key to Braille Music," published by the B. & F. B. Association, is

preparing an Instruction Book, designed to teach Braille music to either sighted copyists or blind learners. The lessons and exercises are carefully graduated, so that no sign is introduced until its use has been explained ; and a short example or exercise is given on nearly every part of a rule. The whole system is divided into three grades, of which one is ready for use, and has been tried and approved by several persons, including Mr. Watson, of the Novello Primer. It is hoped that this way of teaching will ensure a thorough understanding of the elementary rules before the learner is puzzled by the less essential ones. Mrs. Gray will be glad to hear from those who think the system may be useful to them, and to lend the MS. for inspection, and is now about to proceed to work out the second and third grades.

24. The Hastings and St. Leonard's Registered Special School for the Blind, 48 and 49, Kenilworth Road, St. Leonard's, held its first annual meeting on October 26th, and a report for the past year, describing the origin and purpose of the School, was read and adopted. This School has been carried on privately for some years by Mrs. and Miss Meiklejon, and is now registered for the admission of feeble-minded blind children. From 16 to 20 can be accommodated in the Home. Dr. Bagshawe, J.P., presided at the meeting, and an interesting address was given by Mrs. Homan, L.C.C.

25. On December 3rd the Committee of the Bradford Institution for the Blind entertained about 100 workers and their guides, when three gifts were presented to Miss M. J. Icke, the Matron, who is leaving to be married, after fifteen years' service. Mr. F. Priestman presided, and recounted the splendid progress made at the Institution since 1893. The Executive Committee gave a silver-mounted dressing-case, the employees a silver tea service and silver-mounted tray, and the Thursday evening tea attendants a silver-mounted purse. Several speakers eulogised the important duties always thoroughly and well carried out by Miss Icke, and wished her all happiness.

26. The final meeting of the Committee appointed to organise the Conference held at Manchester last July, was held on Saturday, November 7th, at 2 p.m., at the offices of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, when there were present, Mr. H. J. Wilson (in the Chair), Dr. Campbell, Councillor Collingwood, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. Illingworth (Hon. General Secretary), Pine, Stainsby and Tate. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. J. Frew Bryden and Councillor Plater wrote regretting their inability to attend. Advance copies of the official report were shown and much approved as to the general "get up," and the audited financial statement of accounts was presented and passed. It was agreed that any balance accruing after the sale of all the reports should be transferred to the credit of the Conference (1911) account, and Mr. Illingworth was authorised to hand over the minute book and other papers to the person who may be appointed Hon. Secretary of the Bristol Conference (1911). It was further agreed that the sale of all the reports should remain in Mr. Illingworth's hands. They can be obtained from him, price 2/10 post free, at Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Old Trafford, Manchester. Mr. Illingworth gave a brief but forcible account of the recent Conference, and it is pleasing to know that the attendance was better than on any previous occasion. The Chairman thanked the members of the Committee, and especially Mr. Illingworth, for their kindness and forbearance on all occasions, and after Mr. Illingworth had also thanked the Committee, and a formal vote of thanks had been given, on the motion of Dr. Campbell, to the Chairman, the meeting concluded, and the Committee dissolved.

27. The first meeting of the Committee, appointed by the Conference held at Manchester last July, to organise the Conference in 1911, was held on November the 7th, at 2.30 p.m., at the offices of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W. There were present, Miss Austin, Dr. Campbell, Councillor Collingwood, Mr. W. H. Dixon, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. Maddocks, Pine, Platt, Siddall, Stainsby, Stone, Wilson and Miss Wright. Letters of

regret for non-attendance were read from Mr. J. Frew Bryden and the Rev. N. F. McNeile. Mr. Henry J. Wilson was unanimously elected Chairman of the Committee, and Rev. H. T. G. Kingdon, Hon. Secretary, without the power of voting, as he was not a member of the Committee. A letter from Mr. Kingdon was read, in which he stated that the Committee of the School of Industry for the Blind, Bristol, will be glad to welcome the Conference in Bristol in 1911, and a vote of thanks was accorded the Committee. The two matters referred to this Committee by the Conference were discussed, viz.: Negotiation with the Railway Companies to obtain the concession of a blind man and guide to travel as one individual, and the formation of a British Physical Recreation Society for the Blind. In regard to the latter subject it was agreed to request Mr. Guy M. Campbell, who suggested the idea, to formulate a scheme for consideration at the next meeting. It was agreed that the next Conference should be provisionally fixed for the first week in July, 1911, as it was felt that that would probably be the most convenient time for the teachers, *i.e.*, just as the holidays begin. It was decided that at the next meeting suggestions should be considered as to the subjects for discussion at the next Conference, and it was further decided that these suggestions should not come only from members of the Committee, but from anyone who liked to suggest a subject. Any of our readers, therefore, can send their suggestions to Rev. H. T. G. Kingdon, Asylum for the Blind, Queen's Road, Clifton, Bristol, and they will be carefully considered with others.

28. The first meeting of the Committee appointed by the Manchester Conference, to consider the advisability of carrying out the suggestions in Miss Massey's paper on "Pensions," met on November 7th, at 11 a.m., at the office of Gardner's Trust for the Blind. There were present, Miss Massey, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. Collingwood, Purse, Tate and Wilson. It was proposed, seconded and resolved that Mr. Wilson be appointed Chairman of the Committee. Mr. Wilson regretted that he did not see his way at present to accept the chairmanship, as he

might have to resign his seat on the Committee through press of work in other directions, but he consented to act as Chairman of this meeting. Mr. W. H. Tate, 24, Hanover Square. Bradford, was elected Hon. Secretary. Various matters were discussed at some length, especially the overlapping of pensions, and it was felt most desirable, as a preventative thereof, and as a great assistance to the newly formed Unions, that Mr. Stuart Johnson be requested to bring out a new edition of his "Annuities to the Blind."

29. The Brighton Blind Missionary Fund ceased to exist on December 31st, and its work has been taken over by Miss Moon as regards providing a Missionary and giving relief, and by a local branch of the National Lending Library for the Blind as regards employing Braille copyists, and supplying books for the Blind. The income of the Trust Fund will be paid to a local branch of the Library. The arrangement seems excellent to avoid a continuation of the overlapping hitherto extant.

30. We are pleased to hear that the Chester Home Teaching Society for the Blind has greatly extended its work in Cheshire, and that now Runcorn, Northwick, Altrincham and Crewe, and the intermediate country districts are all visited by a blind teacher. A depôt for the sale of articles made by the Blind has been opened at 39, Nicholas Street, Chester.

31. The "Verein zur Fürsorge für Blinde" at Vienna opened on December 13th a new building for 40 blind workers. The opening address was read by Mr. A. Mell, the Superintendent of the Imperial Institution for the Blind at Vienna. "Carmen Sylva" wrote for the occasion a fine prologue, which was read by Miss Mary Mell. The home is called "Kaiser Franz Joseph-Blindenarbeiterheim," and is built in the style of 1820-1830, at a cost of K.130,000. It has spacious rooms for brush and basket-making, workshops, a library, a large dining-room, and 25 bedrooms for one or two persons.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. F. J. MUNBY.

The following is an extract from "*The Yorkshire Herald*," of October 10th, in reference to the testimonial presented to Mr. F. J. Munby, who is so well known in the "blind" world for his devotion and zeal, not only at the Yorkshire School for the Blind, but whenever there is an opportunity in the cause of the Blind generally. His urbanity and quiet reserved strength of ennobling character and of innate goodness are characteristics that all are compelled to admire:—

"The 75th anniversary of the foundation of the Wilberforce School for the Blind, York, was celebrated yesterday, and it was made the occasion of presenting to Mr. F. J. Munby (Hon. Sec.) a handsome testimonial of the affectionate regard in which he is held by the staff, the pupils, and the outmates of the School. The presentation took the form of a splendid album bound in deep red Russian leather, the front cover being surrounded by an artistic scroll in gold, with the letter 'M.' in gold in the centre. The covers are lined with pink watered silk, and the following address, beautifully illuminated, is on the first page:—

Yorkshire School for the Blind,

Wilberforce Memorial,

9th October, 1908.

Dear Mr. Munby,—On behalf of the pupils, outmates and staff of the Yorkshire School for the Blind, with a few friends who have been closely connected with you in your work for the Blind, we take the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the School to ask you to accept this album of water colour drawings of "The King's Manor"—the home of the School—as a small token of our deep respect and regard for you, and in humble and grateful appreciation of the devoted work of your father, the late Mr. Joseph Munby, and yourself as Honorary Secretaries of the School since the date of its institution in 1833.

With every good wish to Mrs. Munby, to the members of your family, and yourself, and grateful thanks for all your unvarying kindness, we remain, yours faithfully,

(Here follow signatures).

The address was surrounded by elegant scroll work in rich colours. At the top of the page was Mr. Munby's coat of arms, on either side the rose of York, and at the bottom the letter "M." The water colours which the album contained were six in number, and were executed by Mr. T. Dudley.

The presentation took place in the music room of the Institution, and the Dean of York presided. He said that they were met on an occasion of two-fold interest and satisfaction. In the first place they were commemorating the 75th anniversary of the opening of that Institution, and he thought that was, indeed, a cause of interest and satisfaction, for no doubt a great work had been done in that time. The next thing which was a subject of interest and satisfaction was that they still had as Hon. Secretary one whose father was the first Secretary at the time of the founding of the Institution, and during the long period of 75 years the position of Secretary had been filled by father and son. He did not know whether anyone present had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Munby's father. He (the Dean) had not, but all he could say was that if Mr. Munby was like his father, his father must have been a very good man. Without wishing to say anything of a flattering character, one felt how much the welfare of the Institution and the happy tone which prevailed was due, not only to the ability and energy with which he had conducted the duties of Secretary, but also to the tone which animated his intercourse with all the inmates, not only the pupils and workmen, but also the officers. They were there to testify by their presence, and by the offering which he would have the pleasure and privilege of placing in Mr. Munby's hands, their appreciation of the work that he had carried on. Many of those had been inmates of the Institution, and many had passed to their rest, but he felt sure he could say for all of them that there would not be one dissentient voice or any who would wish to withhold their testimony to the value and the kindness of Mr. Munby's services during that long period of years. It was a great family record that father and son had followed each other in carrying on the great work there, and it was by the unity of purpose, unity of spirit and temper, and by their personality, each

of them enabled such good work to be done in a thorough manner. The School had gone with the times and developed with the times, and he thought they could say that it was now a thoroughly up-to-date blind school. He hoped Mr. Munby would be spared for many years to carry on the good work which he and his father had done for three-parts of a century. The Dean then read the address and presented the album to Mr. Munby, remarking that the drawings done by Mr. Dudley were exceedingly beautiful.

Mr. F. J. Munby was received with repeated rounds of applause. He said that was an occasion of a two-fold character, and the domestic one was very sacred and was not for the outside public. The main subject of that day¹ was not Frederick James Munby, but William Wilberforce. The Dean of York at that moment was, as he always was, in his right place. Nothing could gratify him (Mr. Munby) more than to receive at his hands such a precious volume as that which lay on the table before him, and he owed it to the Dean as Chairman of the Committee that he had been enabled for the most part of the past 33 years, by the grace of God, to do what he had done. He would like to say to the outside public that the Wilberforce Memorial was a very real thing. He regarded it, and his father regarded it, as a great privilege to safeguard that memorial, and he rejoiced, as his father rejoiced and did rejoice to-day, that the Wilberforce Memorial had grown, and grown in the hearts of the people, as well as in usefulness to them and to those dear to them—the Blind of that great county. It was a different thing to a stone statue. It was full of life, and the life was spreading and would continue to spread, and it was because of the life of William Wilberforce, of which they all knew something, that they were what they were. The Dean of York had referred to the unity which prevailed at that place, for they knew that it still remained true that it was “a good and joyful thing to dwell together in unity.” That was what they did. That Institution would be there 25 years hence, and if men then gave heed to all that William Wilberforce said and did, the Yorkshiremen of 1933 would commemorate him and the centenary would be celebrated

with a joy which would exceed theirs of that day. Some of those present would live to celebrate the centenary, and when they looked back on that day of happiness they would feel that the fourth quarter of the century would exceed in usefulness and happiness all the quarters which had gone before. Since King Edward VII., as Prince of Wales, 25 years ago stood where he (Mr. Munby) was then standing and greeted those then present, a great deal had been done for the care of the Blind, but this work had greatly increased, and when he thought what had been done during the last 25 years he found that it had largely been done by women. They owed a great deal to the Matron of the School (Miss Holiday) and all she had done before she was matron. The ladies outside were beginning to find that they had a great deal to do, and one thing they were trying to do was to tell the ladies of the North of England that they could not find work more useful, more cheerful, and more hopeful than work for the Blind.

Mr. Charles Holmes, who has been connected with the Institution for 69 years, proposed a vote of thanks to the Dean for presiding.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. A. B. Norwood, Superintendent of the School, and carried.

THE UNIONS OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

Under this heading we propose in future to give from quarter to quarter short accounts of the proceedings of the seven Unions which have now been formed to cover the whole of England and Wales, provided that the respective Secretaries will kindly send us the necessary information.

A meeting of representatives of the various Unions, now that they have all started, has been convened for Saturday, February 6th, 11.30 a.m., at the office of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, in order to exchange ideas and to discuss subjects of

common interest, so as to perfect, as far as possible, the working arrangements of all the Unions on similar lines. It ought to be a most interesting and memorable occasion, and we trust that the chairmen, secretaries, treasurers, and as many members as possible of the executive committees of the Unions will be present. The meeting is purposely convened for February 6th, as some members of the Union are coming to town to attend the first annual meeting of the College of Teachers of the Blind, to be held at 2.30 p.m. on that day.

The North of England Union. During the last quarter there have been three meetings of this Union. The Executive Committee met at York, on October 10th, and on November 28th, at Wakefield. The quarterly meeting of the General Committee was held at York, on October 10th, when there were present: Mr. F. J. Munby (Chairman), Mr. Norwood, Rev. N. F. McNeile, Miss Heywood (Hon. Secretary), Miss Rayner, Mr. Illingworth, Miss Field, Miss Prior, Miss Halliday, Lieut.-Col Jolly, Dr. R. N. Hartley, Mr. J. B. Meeson, Mr. W. Robertson, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Priestley, Mr. Day, Miss E. Wright. Mr. Pine, from Nottingham, was also present as a visitor. This date coincided with the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Wilberforce School for the Blind.

On the motion of Dr. R. N. Hartley, and seconded by the Rev. N. F. McNeile, it was resolved "that the hearty congratulations of this Committee are offered to Mr. Frederick J. Munby, the Chairman of the Union, since its inception, on the association of his father and himself, in the office of Hon. Secretary of the Yorkshire School for the Blind, continuously held by them for 75 years, from its institution in October, 1833, and this Committee desire to place on record their high appreciation of Mr. Munby's services in the cause of the Blind."

The Chairman moved that an expression of respectful sympathy be passed on the loss of two of the first Vice-Presidents of the Union, the late Lord Derby and the late Lord Herries, and he announced, that Lord Shuttleworth, the newly elected Lord Lieutenant for Lancashire, had consented to succeed Lord Derby as Vice-President.

A letter was read from the Chief Constable for Northumberland, expressing interest in the employment of the Blind in that county, and it was agreed to elect him as one of the co-opted members of the Union.

The next annual meeting will be held at Preston, in May, 1909, when Lord Shuttleworth will probably preside.

A circular has been approved, setting forth the areas and boundaries for visiting and caring for the scattered Blind, within the six counties, and drawing attention to the importance of visiting committees being formed wherever there are none. The circular will be issued, with a map of each locality.

The Organising Secretary reported a meeting at Newcastle, called by the Lord Mayor, to consider the amalgamation of the three societies for the Blind.

Letters, applying for information as to how the North of England Union was set on foot, were read from officials of the following Unions: (*a*) the North West, (*b*) the South Wales and Monmouthshire, (*c*) the Western Counties, (*d*) the Eastern Counties, and (*e*) the Midland. The earliest circulars, reports, and all information available were supplied to all.

October, 1908, will remain memorable as the birthday month of five fresh Unions following on the same lines as that of the North, completing with it and the Metropolitan, a network of seven Unions for co-operation for the good of the Blind over the whole of England and Wales.

On October 15th, it was the privilege of the Organising Secretary to be present at the inauguration of the North West Union at Chester.

On October 17th, she attended a most inspiring meeting at Bristol, out of which grew both the Western Counties Union, and through Mr. Joseph Hall, who was present, the South Wales and Monmouthshire Unions.

She also attended a very successful reception and exhibition of work, which was held in the Blind Women's Home, Scarborough, in September.

In October, the Mayor of Keighley gave an afternoon reception in the Town Hall, for the purpose of setting the good

work done for the Blind, by the Town Mission, on a permanent footing. Miss Agnes Clough, the Hon. Secretary, read a report of the last eighteen months' work. Mr. Siddall, Miss E. Wright and Mr. Priestley were the speakers for the Union. A committee was elected to develop the work begun, with the Mayor, as President, *ex-officio*.

In December, Miss E. Wright again visited Bristol, by invitation, to read a paper at the excellent exhibition of Blind Industries.

Two meetings have been held of the Sub-Committee for Women's Employment, with much helpful discussion.

It was agreed to subscribe for 25 copies of a new edition of Mr. Stuart Johnson's "Annuities for the Blind."

The next quarterly meeting will be held in Leeds, on January 23rd, at 2 p.m.

Copies of the first annual report, and Newcastle Conference of May last, may still be had from the Secretaries, at 1/- each.

The Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union. A meeting of the Executive Committee was held at 53, Victoria Street, S.W., on December 5th, at 12 noon. There were present Miss B. Taylor, Miss E. M. Bainbrigge, Sir John Brickwood, Dr. Campbell, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mr. Guy Campbell, and Mr. H. J. Wilson, in the Chair. Mrs. Inglis, Miss Moon, and Mr. Lempriere, wrote regretting their inability to attend the meeting.

The Honorary Secretary reported that Colonel Eadie, on behalf of Mr. Bramwell Booth, promised the hearty co-operation and assistance of the Salvation Army in any way possible for the work of the Union. It was agreed also to enlist the help of the Church Army, and of the different Education Authorities in the area of the Union.

It was agreed to print 10,000 copies of the leaflet, issued by the Leatherhead School for the Blind, which deals not only with prevention of blindness, but also indicates the best ways to begin a blind child's training. "A friend" kindly promised to pay for 7,000 of these leaflets. It was decided also to circulate leaflets issued gratis by the Gardner's Trust.

A copy of the circular letter, convening a meeting at the Bristol Institution for the Blind on Saturday, the 17th October, to found the Western Counties Union for the Blind, was presented.

Mr. Morphey, of the Isle of Wight, wrote, expressing ready willingness to cooperate with the objects of the Union.

Sir John Brickwood was thanked for successfully bringing the Union to the notice of the Chief Constables of E. Sussex and Hampshire, and it was reported that Miss Moon had been getting the forms filled in for Brighton and surrounding district.

It was agreed that the Union should purchase 25 copies of "Annuities to the Blind," when published.

A table with regard to the blind persons stated to be within the area of the Union at the time of the Census in 1901, was submitted by the Hon. Secretary. Arising out of a discussion in connection with the table, it was pointed out that the Census returns were admittedly very vague and unreliable, as there was at the present time no universal definition of blindness for the Registrar General and his Agents to work on. It was decided to discuss this matter at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

A scheme, kindly drawn up by the Hon. Secretary, was adopted to prevent overlapping in the appointment of new Tea Agents, between the Blind Tea Agency, Ltd., and the London Provincial Tea Company, Ltd.

The Hon. Secretary reported that he had issued reply post cards to those over the age of 70 whose names appeared on the Union lists, and that 75 replies had, up to date, been received. Of these, 46 showed that application had been made for the Government Pension; 10 explained that the applicants were ineligible on account of being in receipt of parish relief, or in such a position as not to require the pension; 19 had not yet applied. To the people acting on behalf of these 19, a letter had been sent, asking them to see that the necessary forms of application are filled in.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is to be held on January 30th, at 12 o'clock, and of the Council, at 2.30 on the same day,

It was agreed that the financial and working year of the Union should terminate on the 31st December.

The Western Counties Union. The inaugural meeting of this Union was held at the Bristol Institution for the Blind, on October 17th, and was most enthusiastic.

The Convener, in his circular letter, quoted statistics (taken from the census of 1901) as evidencing the necessity for such a Union in the Western Counties, to prevent over-lapping of existing Societies, and to form new Societies to care for the welfare of the out-door Blind.

In this Union there is one blind person in every 909 of the population, whereas, in the Northern Counties there is only one in every 1,250.

There are some 2,000 blind persons, at the present time, lacking sympathy, visitation, and assistance, and in some counties the deficiency is much more marked than in others.

Dr. F. Richardson Cross, the eminent oculist, presided over the meeting, and was supported by Mr. J. Storrs Fry (President of the Bristol Institution), Sir Matthew Dodsworth, Miss Edith Wright, Miss Grace, Mrs. Kingdon, Miss Smith (of Weston-super-Mare), Captain Metcalfe (Chief Constable of Somerset), Rev. H. T. G. Kingdon (Superintendent and Secretary of the Bristol Institution), Captain Willoughby Berthon (Cheltenham), Mr. J. Hall (Swansea), Rev. E. J. Cocks (President of the Devonport Institution for the Blind), Mr. R. J. Gilbert (Superintendent of the Plymouth School for the Blind), Mr. Chas. Lucas, Miss Beavan (Bath), Mr. C. M. Collingwood (Convener and Secretary), and others.

The Chairman, in his opening address, referred to the advantages to be derived from organisation and combination, and claimed that as organisation had proved advantageous to that city in its work of dealing with the Blind, so it would undoubtedly be an advantage to the work in the counties. The North of England Union had shown how successful such a society could be, and the movement had now spread with such rapidity that the whole of England and Wales was falling into line and following its example.

Miss Edith Wright, who had kindly come from Wakefield on purpose for the meeting, in a forcible address, spoke of the work that had been accomplished in this direction in Scotland, and how, during the past two years the North of England Union had been formed. She gave a detailed outline of the methods adopted in the North of England Union, and explained how they had been enabled, by the kind assistance of Captain Metcalfe (who at that time held an official appointment in Yorkshire), to obtain a very complete register of the Blind in their counties; the outcome of which would doubtless be that each of the Unions will become a centre for information respecting the Blind. She also touched upon the question of infantile blindness, and the need for keeping in touch with those who after receiving a training at Institutions for the Blind, were scattered in small towns and villages. In conclusion, she thanked the Western Union for the privilege afforded her in thus assisting at the formation of a new Association, and for the compliment paid to the North of England Union in following its methods.

Mr. Collingwood (Exeter) gave some interesting particulars respecting the existing Agencies and Societies in the West of England, emphasized the necessity for co-operation and co-ordination, and strongly supported the formation of the proposed Union.

Captain Metcalfe referred to the pleasure it had afforded him to be of some assistance to those in the North, and his willingness not only to render similar assistance in the county of Somerset, but to use his influence with his colleagues in the other Western Counties.

The Rev. H. T. G. Kingdon referred to the work that was being done in connection with the ex-pupils of the Bristol Institution; and Mr. Hall spoke in similar terms of the work then being carried on in South Wales. He strongly advocated a Home of Rest for the Blind in every county, and added that he also was engaged in the formation of a similar Union for South Wales.

Captain Willoughby Berthon proposed a resolution

recommending that the suggested Union should be formed, and that Mr. Collingwood be requested to act as Convener and Hon. Secretary. This was seconded by Mr. N. Jacob (Bristol), warmly supported by the Rev. E. J. Cocks, and carried unanimously.

On the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. J. Storrs Fry, a Provisional Committee was appointed to draw up the Constitution and Rules of the Union.

Mr. J. Storrs Fry moved, and Sir M. Dodsworth seconded a cordial vote of thanks to Miss Wright and the other speakers, which was carried with acclamation.

Miss Wright in reply said that the formation of this Union and the remembrance of such an enthusiastic gathering would in themselves be sufficient recompense to her for attending the meeting.

The North West Union. A meeting was held at Chester on 15th October, to consider the desirability of forming a Union of the Blind, to include North Wales, Cheshire and Shropshire. The Ven. Archdeacon Barber, of Chester, presided. There were present: Delegates from North Wales, Birkenhead, Shrewsbury, Macclesfield, and Members of the Home Teaching of the Blind in Chester.

The Chairman called on Miss Wright, the Organising Secretary of the North of England Union, to address the meeting, who explained the working of the Union, and the satisfactory progress it is making in the six Northern Counties, and urged the formation of a North West Union on the same lines. Miss Griffith, Hon. Secretary of the Port Madox branch of the North Wales Society, also spoke, and moved that the proposed Union be carried into effect. This was seconded by Mr. Byolin, of Shrewsbury, and carried *nem. con.*

The Chairman moved that the Constitution of the North West Union be similar to that of the North of England Union, and this was agreed to, with a few alterations.

Miss Margaret Comber, Woodville, Liverpool Road, Chester, was elected Hon. Secretary of the Union.

The following have been elected as representatives for

their respective districts:—Miss Griffith (North Wales), Mrs. Marples and Mr. Horlick (Birkenhead), Miss H. Jocelyn Ffoulkes and Miss E. Comber (Chester), Miss C. M. Smale and Miss C. Smale (Macclesfield), Mr. and Mrs. Byolin (Shrewsbury).

A second meeting was held on 26th November, at Chester, when it was decided to ask the Duke of Westminster to be President, and the four Bishops in the Union, and the Lord Lieutenant of each County, to become Vice-Presidents.

It was decided that the Central Committee meetings should be held not less frequently than every six months, but oftener if circumstances required.

Since the meeting, an intimation has been received from the Ashton, Stalybridge, Dukinfield and District Blind Society, that it does not see its way at present to join the Union.

The Eastern Union. Mr. H. M. Taylor, F.R.S., made a start by writing to the Chief Constables of all the counties and boroughs within the seven counties of this Union, who warmly responded to his appeal for assistance. He next addressed a circular letter to the editors of the local press throughout the area. By this time, Mr. Taylor has received complete lists of the Blind from all the Chief Constables of the counties, and from almost all of the Chief Constables of the boroughs in this Union.

The South Wales and Monmouthshire Union. Viscount Tredegar has accepted the office of President, and the Lord Lieutenants of the seven counties in the Union have consented to be Vice-Presidents. Mr. Joseph Hall, Grosvenor House, Swansea, is acting as Hon. Secretary, and has been in communication with the Chiefs of the Police of each county. They have all consented to give the requisite information about the Blind in their respective counties.

The Midland Union. The inaugural meeting of this Union took place on October 29th, at the General Institution for the Blind, Birmingham, when the Venerable Archdeacon Mansfield Owen presided. There were present representatives from the following Societies for the Blind, viz.: Birmingham, Leicester, Oxford, Nottingham, Walsall, Worcester, and the West Bromwich Aftercare Committee. After the Chairman's opening address, Mr. S. M.

Burrows, who had convened the meeting, explained the working of the Northern and Metropolitan Unions. Several of those present spoke in favour of the movement, and the following resolution proposed by Rev. T. Barnard (Worcester Blind College), seconded by Mr. Pine (Midland Institution for the Blind), and supported by Mr. Brockhurst (Walsall Workshops for the Blind), was carried, viz.: "That this Conference is of opinion that a Midland Counties Union of Institutions, Societies, and Agencies for the Blind should be formed on the lines of the Northern and Metropolitan Unions." The question of area having been discussed, it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Pine, "That the following eleven counties do constitute the area of the Midland Union—Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Lincolnshire, and Rutlandshire." The approximate number of blind people in these counties is 3,600. The objects of the Union were discussed, and on the motion of Mr. Burrows, seconded by Miss Bartlett, a resolution was passed adopting the same objects as those of the Northern and Metropolitan Unions. It was decided that the officers of the Union shall consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, a Chairman of the Central Committee, a Treasurer, and a Secretary. It was agreed to invite all the Institutions in the eleven counties to join the Union, and that a subscription of not less than 21/- entitled an Institution to nominate on the Central Committee two members, of whom it was suggested that one should be blind. Mr. Burrows pointed out that no real progress would be made unless a paid organising secretary was appointed for at least a year. It was resolved that Mr. Burrows be appointed Chairman of the Central Committee and also Hon. Secretary, *pro tem.*, and that he be authorised to engage an Organising Secretary at a salary of £100 a year. Mr. Burrows reported that he had received two offers of £25 each towards a guarantee fund for the salary. Power was given to the Central Committee to co-opt members, and it was agreed to hold a yearly conference at a new Centre each time. The question of the actual wording of the Constitution was deferred for further consideration at the next meeting. Lunch was kindly provided

by the Chairman and Committee of the Birmingham Institution for the Blind. The address of Mr. S. M. Burrows, Hon. Sec., is 9, Norham Gardens, Oxford.

A PLEA FOR A CENTRAL LIBRARY.

Among the subjects discussed at the Manchester Conference none evoked more interest than the question of the establishment of a Central Library for the Blind. At present such facilities as this class possess for reading depend upon a very moderate number of libraries or similar institutions, and of these, though one is of fair dimensions, the majority are small and distributed unevenly and without method about the country. No doubt the tendency of late years in most systems, social and political, has been to depart as far as is practicable from centralisation, and to disseminate among localities separate and individual institutions to serve local requirements. In general this practice has been justified; and in such a matter as libraries—that is, libraries for ordinary sighted readers—it scarcely needs justification. A library to be of use for the average reader must be accessible to him; a central one in some distant place would for practicable purposes offer him no advantages. But the case of a library for the Blind differs essentially from that of ordinary libraries. In the first place, the number of the Blind, if absolutely great, is relatively small. In the whole of the United Kingdom it does not amount to more than the population of one of the smaller country towns, and in individual districts outside London the proportion which it bears to the rest of the inhabitants is minute. The number of readers is smaller still. Again, the conditions on which a library for the Blind can at present exist are peculiar. With comparatively few exceptions the books cannot be purchased, but must be produced specially for the Institution, and that at a high expenditure of labour and money, a circumstance, which, in a local library, must always tend to severely limit the number of volumes, and in practice precludes the possession of any but those in the most general demand. Another difference lies in the size and weight of the volumes, owing to which readers, except those living very near the library,

are unable to exchange their books by hand, and are compelled to have recourse to the post or other means of organised carriage. Of course, the majority of the Blind being poor the comparison here is rather with the ordinary Free Libraries than with the circulating libraries demanding a high subscription. Nor can the Blind, as do sighted people, by scanning the titles of books as they stand on the shelves, select from them to their taste. They must choose by a catalogue, and that being so, added to the fact that books will be delivered by cartage, it makes no great difference whether they are sent from a local or a central institution.

If the force of these considerations as to the general question of a Central Library for the Blind be admitted—and it can hardly be denied—it may be worth while to examine more in detail the relative advantages of the present system and that contemplated by those who advocate centralisation.

Certain defects in the existing arrangement which aims at the establishment of local libraries are very obvious. In many small institutions there are embossed books of literary value produced at high cost, which, having been once read by the half dozen persons in the neighbourhood whom they interested are never again taken from the shelves. Yet, while these works lie useless there are in other districts scores of persons who would be thankful to read them, but who do not know of their existence, or if they do, can have no access to them. The system also leads to much unnecessary duplication of books, and the consequent loss of the labour which produced them. For to take only the case of the books just referred to, which meet the taste of but a few local readers, and after being once used are neglected; copies of the same books may be, and often are, produced for a library in a neighbouring district where they suffer a similar fate. Clearly, if adequate means of interchange existed, the one set of volumes would have amply sufficed for the readers concerned, while the labour given to the production of the second set could have been devoted to transcribing books not yet available to any of the Blind.

Now under some system of centralisation—we need not discuss at this point the nature of that system—these defects

would be remedied. Books not in demand in one locality would be available in others, and there would be no reason or inducement for the waste of labour in producing duplicates of those in small demand. But not only would these defects be met; some positive advantages of great value would also be obtained. Thus, instead of the limited supply of books at present available in any locality, all books produced in the various embossed characters would be obtainable by every blind reader in the kingdom wherever he lived. The post affords a ready and convenient means of exchange, and the welcome concession recently made by the kindness of the Postmaster General in rates of postage for literature for the Blind makes the cost of exchange as moderate as it well can be. Scholarly and scientific works which it has never been found worth while to transcribe for any local library would then assuredly be produced, and would as certainly find readers. By an organised system of registration of books transcribed, or the transcription of which is provided for, the unnecessary duplication of works could be absolutely precluded, while on the other hand the necessary duplication of books in high demand could be relegated entirely to blind writers, voluntary or paid, for whom it would provide an interesting occupation or a suitable industry. In this way sighted writers in all parts of the country would be free to be employed on the work which they alone can do, viz.:—the transcription of fresh books, and a library far more representative of general literature than any now existing could be built up. Moreover, every writer of Braille, whether sighted or blind, would be supplying volumes which would serve the whole blind community, and not merely a local fraction of it. If it be urged these advantages are claimed only in connection with books produced by hand, it must be remembered that these form by far the most numerous as well as the most valuable part of all libraries for the Blind; for the stereotype process can only be applied profitably to produce the books in the very widest demand. But even for publishers of stereotyped books the result of centralisation would be advantageous, for a Central Library would be a *depôt* of information as to the genuine requirements and taste of blind readers, and would afford the clearest

indication as to what books could be economically printed. To glance at some minor points, such as the disinfecting of volumes after circulation; their maintenance in repair; and the examination of new hand-written books, in order to see that they have been accurately transcribed, which last is not really a minor point but one of great importance, though often neglected, these and other matters could obviously be carried out more efficiently, more regularly, and less expensively at a Central Library than can ever be the case at small local institutions.

To achieve these results, it is necessary that the central establishment be in London, and be capable of dealing with a large number of books. Also, that local libraries be in some way affiliated to the central one. Though this would involve the condition that the books would be at the disposal of the main establishment, it by no means signifies the extinction of local institutions, which might still exist and serve purely local purposes though, as regards the circulation of books, with greatly extended facilities. It must be hoped that all societies instituted for the welfare of the blind would give their co-operation to the design. Without their goodwill and assistance it cannot come into activity. Again, at the central Library, there must be a system of registration of all writers in characters for the blind, whether voluntary or paid, by whose aid books would be produced according to a definite plan, and a satisfactory library accumulated. At any rate, in the larger towns there will probably be requisite depôts where books can be exchanged and the catalogue consulted. It is to be hoped that the Free Libraries now so general would in large part practically perform this function by becoming subscribers to the Institution. It is but just that blind inhabitants of every district should have, as far as it is possible, the same advantages as the rest of the community, and in no way could this be more efficiently or cheaply achieved than in the one indicated. Further, of course, some kind of local representation of the library will be necessary at all centres where there are numerous blind readers. This is requisite not only to aid the blind themselves in procuring books, or to ascertain what kind of literature is desired by them, but also to enlist voluntary sighted writers, who are happily to

be found in most places, and to employ blind writers in making copies of books already in embossed type. Though this condition may appear at first sight to entail a large expenditure involving a preliminary accumulation of capital, the prospect of which might lead most people to consider such a plan chimerical, yet it seems as if a way to meet the difficulty lay close at hand. The National Lending Library for the Blind, trusting to the ready goodwill of people of leisure, has already tentatively commenced such a system in securing, in several localities, ladies and gentlemen who act as its Honorary Secretaries. By their efforts, which will be voluntary, and unstintingly given, it is hoped to attain the objects referred to above, and, moreover, to materially assist the library in a financial way. For, with local representatives, it will be possible to bring its objects before many who were not previously aware of this opportunity of answering the claims of the Blind, and also, out of funds locally raised, to provide employment in copying books for blind persons of the neighbourhood, who will thus secure a means of at least contributing to their own subsistence.

Now, whether the institution here named—The Incorporated National Lending Library for the Blind—can fill the place of a central library on the the lines here indicated, this is perhaps not the occasion to discuss. It has a central position, and, serving all parts of the kingdom, is in no sense local. It has begun also, as above said, to establish a system of representation in provincial centres. It thus forms a nucleus which seems capable of developing into a truly national Institution. Those concerned in its administration would gladly see it growing into a condition of more general utility, and will welcome any suggestions or criticisms to that end. But again, this is not the place to urge that view. The object here is to endeavour to show the need which exists for a centralisation of libraries for the Blind and, though there is doubtless another side to the question, it may be hoped that the arguments here adduced may seem on the whole sufficiently strong to induce those interested in the welfare of the Blind to consider if steps towards the creation of a central library should not be taken.

EDWARD C. HAMLEY,

CORRESPONDENCE.

*To the Editor of THE BLIND.*THE INCORPORATED NATIONAL LENDING LIBRARY
FOR THE BLIND,

125, QUEENS ROAD, BAYSWATER, W.

December 11th, 1908.

Dear Sir,

Will you put the following suggestions before your readers for discussion?

A good many enquiries reach the National Lending Library on the question of a Reference Library for the Blind.

Such a Reference Library as is easily at the command of the sighted reader is obviously out of the question, (1) as being inaccessible to the majority of readers owing to the wide distribution of the Blind population, (2) as entailing too great an expenditure of money and labour. Moreover, it would be impossible to keep it up to date.

Still, in view of the fact that the Blind have no private Libraries, some facilities for reference are particularly desirable for them.

The difficulties could largely be met by the provision of a "Reference Librarian" rather than a Reference Library. Queries received in Braille, or otherwise, could be answered in Braille by a competent Librarian, after reference at a good Public Library. The Blind reader would then have accurate information at his disposal in an accessible form. This need not be very expensive, and the cost could be met either by those who desired regularly to use such a librarian, or by a graduated charge (from perhaps 1/- a query) which would vary according to the difficulty of the enquiry and the length of the reply required.

Such an arrangement might be made at the National Lending Library, if it should be found that any considerable demand exists.

The proposal, at any rate as regards any more immediate application of it, is restricted to giving the Blind the advantages to be gained by consulting the ordinary and easily accessible works of reference, and does not apply to questions involving deep or difficult research.

The Secretary of the National Lending Library for the Blind, 125, Queen's Road, Bayswater, will be glad to receive criticism and suggestions on this subject.

Your obedient servant,

EDWARD C. HAMLEY,

*Chairman of the Incorporated National Lending
Library for the Blind.*

The Blind.

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All communications for the next number must be sent on or before June 19th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. It is with much regret that we have to announce the death of Earl Egerton, of Tatton. He was Chairman of the Royal Commission on the Blind, and Chairman of the opening meeting of the Conference held in London in 1902, when he gave the inaugural address. He was always greatly interested in the Blind, and by his death they have lost a true and valued friend.

2. The Rev. H. T. G. Kingdon has left the Bristol Blind Asylum, and, therefore, as there is at present no Hon. Secretary of the Committee for the organisation of the next Conference (1911), all communications thereon should be sent, until further notice, to the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. H. J. Wilson, 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

3. Hugh Howe Berridge and Arthur William Hayhow, pupils at the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, N.W., have been successful at the recent examination of the Royal College of Organists. Hugh H. Berridge has passed the full examination for the Associateship (A.R.C.O.), and Arthur William

Hayhow has passed the theoretical stage of the same examination. The musical professors at the School are Mr. G. D. Gardner, F.R.C.O., and Miss Garden, A.O.P.T.C.

4. In January, Leslie Kenny and John Lawson, of the Royal Normal College, passed the Associate Examination of the Royal College of Organists, and Nellie Owen passed the Licentiate Examination of the Royal Academy of Music in pianoforte playing.

5. A Gardner Scholarship, tenable at one of the Universities, will be vacant in October next. Intending candidates must make application before the 30th June next, on forms to be obtained from the Secretary of Gardner's Trust, 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

6. The Committee of the General Institution for the Blind, Birmingham, have decided to raise the fees for pupils at the Main Institution in Carpenter Road, Edgbaston, from £26 5s. to £30 per annum, the increase to date from March 25th, 1909.

7. One of the good results of starting the Unions is clearly shown in the report from the South Wales Union, where no less than ten blind children, of school age, have been found, who are receiving no education at all. The cases have been reported to the Local Education Authorities by the Hon. Secretary of the Union.

8. At a recent recital, Miss Fanny Davies included in her programme an Impromptu of Mr. Horace Watling's. We quote the following criticism from *The Times*:—"The recital given in Steinway Hall, by Miss Fanny Davies, was an unmixed delight from beginning to end, for even the presence of Liszt's 'Feux follets' could not spoil the impression made by a remarkably clever MS Impromptu, by Mr. Horace A. Watling, of the Royal Normal College, Norwood, a piece which, if it were only fortunate enough to find a publisher, should soon be in the repertory of every competent pianist, since its effectiveness wins it friends at once, and its musicianship will keep them when won."

9. The next Examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind will be held in London early in July, at the Boundary Lane School for the Blind, Walworth, by kind permission of the London County Council. The exact date is not yet fixed, but intending candidates will be duly notified. Candidates must give two months' notice of their intention to present themselves for examination, and will be required to produce satisfactory testimonials of character, and evidence of attainments. It is within the power of the Committee, without assigning any cause or reason, to refuse to examine any candidate who may propose to present himself, or herself. Applications for copies of the Syllabus and for admission to the Examination should be addressed to Mr. Henry Stainsby (Hon. Registrar), 206, Great Portland Street, London, W.

10. We are pleased to hear that on the recommendation of the Special Schools Sub-Committee, the London County Council has decided that in any future appointment of teachers to their Schools for the Blind, it shall be made a condition of the engagement that the teacher shall obtain a certificate of the College of Teachers of the Blind within a period of two years from the date of appointment. We hope that not only other Education Authorities will follow this excellent example, but also that the Committees of the various Schools for the Blind will encourage the members of their staff to sit for the examination. It is most important that the qualifications of the teachers in the Schools for the Blind should be of a high standard, and now an opportunity is offered for testing these special qualifications by means of the recently founded College of Teachers of the Blind.

11. The Annual Christmas Festival of the Royal Normal College was held January 19th. Sir Edgar Speyer presided, and Lady Speyer unveiled the tree. The chief feature of the festival was a concert by the pupils. The programme included "Lo! Star-led Chiefs" (Crotch); the "Lullaby" and "The Dance" (Elgar); "Say Dainty Dames" (Walker), and cantata for children's voices "Walter von der Vogelweid." Master Wilfrid

Kershaw played the first movement of Mozart's Concerto in E flat, and Mr. Frits Hartvigson, Professor at the College, played the orchestral part on a second piano. A Tarantelle Impromptu for two pianos, by Victor Spanner, was played by the Composer and Mr. Watling. Great pleasure was given by Lady Speyer, who played several violin solos, among them Handel's Sonata in A major; Sarabande (Sulzer); Berceuse (Faure) and Irish Reel (Stanford). At the close of the concert the Chairman said he was a lover of music, and he was much impressed by the artistic standard of the performance. What struck him more than anything else, was the atmosphere of cheerfulness, pluck, and determination that seemed to pervade the College. Dr. Campbell and those with him inculcated a spirit of reliance and confidence in those who, through want of sight, had not perhaps, that confidence which those gifted with sight possessed. To have confidence was to beget it, and it was a basis of success. In conclusion, Sir Edgar Speyer made an earnest appeal for subscriptions, promising a donation of £500, and an annual subscription of £20.

12. The Annual Distribution of Prizes at the Elm Court School for Elder Blind Girls, L.C.C., took place on Friday, February 26th, when Sir William Lancaster presided. Between 2.30 p.m. and 4 p.m. the visitors had the opportunity of seeing the classes at work, and an exhibition of drill and gymnastics. The display given showed clearly how the physical training and general deportment of the girls are regarded as essential in the curriculum of a school of this kind. All the exercises were as well done as though there were eyes to see, and the teachers are to be complimented upon the success of their training.

After a short interval for refreshments, music and recitation followed. The choruses and solos were well rendered and gave evidence of careful tuition. The recitations were "Edinburgh after Flodden," "Richard II.," Act I, Scenes I. and III. The characters were well portrayed, and it was not surprising that Mrs. Wilton Phipps (Vice-Chairman of the Special Schools Sub-Committee) who distributed the prizes, should say in her excellent

speech that she had never heard girls—though she had heard many—enunciate so well as the Elm Court girls.

Some of the prizes had been gained in Scripture in competition with sighted children, others for essays in connection with the R.S.P.C., and several in competition at the International Conference on the Blind, held at Manchester last July, with pupils at schools for the Blind, throughout the United Kingdom.

There was a large gathering of friends and parents, who were all delighted with the proceedings.

13. After long and careful consideration the Committee of the Bristol Asylum or School of Industry for the Blind have entered into a contract for the erection of new schools at Southmead, a suburb about three miles from the centre of the City. The main block alone will cost nearly £25,000, exclusive of site and fittings, and it is hoped that the work will be completed within two years, and that the removal will take place in the summer of 1911. The School will accommodate over 100 resident pupils between the ages of 5 and 21, and the provision of buildings for elementary and technical education will be thoroughly up-to-date. As the site at the disposal of the Committee is over twelve acres in extent, there will be ample play and recreation grounds, and scope for extension, if found necessary.

At this juncture it is particularly interesting to note that the Bristol School is the third oldest in the world, having been founded in 1793. After much search, the original building in which the school was started, has recently been located where, after some alteration, there is now a Mission Hall. The coming removal will be the third in the history of the Institution. When the delegates to the Conference visit Bristol in 1911, they will be able to see what is probably the oldest, and certainly the newest, buildings used as Schools for the Blind, in the world.

14. In our last number we referred to the testimonial presented to Mr. Munby, to commemorate the 75th anniversary

of the founding of the the Yorkshire School for the Blind, and the long and valued services of himself and his father as Hon. Secretaries during the whole of that period. We now hear that Mr. Munby also contributed to the commemoration by giving for the use of the girls a handsome clock with Westminster chimes, and bearing this inscription: "To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the foundation of the Wilberforce Memorial this clock is given for the use of the blind girls by their affectionate friend, Frederick Munby, October 12th, 1908.

15. On March 4th, a very handsome new organ was dedicated at the Leatherhead School for the Blind, by Canon Hunter, who gave an address on Psalm cv. verses 3 and 4, pointing out that music is a great aid to worship. At the close of the service, Dr. Pyne, Organist to the Town Hall and University, Manchester, gave an excellent recital on the organ, with selections from Beethoven, Haydn, J. S. Bach, César Franck, &c., which was much appreciated. The organ, which is very sweet toned, cost £1,200, and is blown by a centrifugal fan driven by an electric motor. It is constructed on the tubular-pneumatic principle throughout, and altogether a total length of 6,000 feet of tubing has been used in the instrument. There is a pedal, great, swell, and choir organ with combination pistons, composition pedals, tremulant, &c. The organ case, which is of solid oak, was designed by the Principal, the Rev. St. Clare Hill, and the work was carried out at the School, under his supervision.

16. A friendly conference, convened by the Master of the Clothworkers' Company, was held at the Clothworkers' Hall, on January 27th. It consisted of elected representatives from the large endowed Charities, which grant pensions to the Blind. There were present representatives from the Blind Man's Friend Charity, Christ's Hospital, the Clothworkers' Company, the Cordwainers' Company, the Drapers' Company, Gardner's Trust, the Goldsmiths' Company, the Painters' Company, and the Society for Granting Annuities to the Poor Adult Blind. The meeting was most helpful and harmonious, and a cordial vote of

thanks was given to the Chairman, the Master of the Cloth-workers' Company, for convening the conference.

17. Councillor J. J. Plater has been taking an active part in preventing some old people, who occupy trust cottages on leasehold land under the Yardley Charity, from being turned out of their homes without other accommodation being provided for them, and also in trying to obtain, but unsuccessfully, some land for the purpose of allotments. The humanitarian efforts of a blind man on behalf of his sighted neighbours have been much appreciated.

18. The first meeting of the National Committee for the Employment of the Blind, since the Conference, was held at York, on February 27th, at 2 p.m. There were present, the Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. Macdonald, Meeson, Mullins, Norwood, Pine, Priestley, Stainsby, Stott, and Wilson, and Mr. Maddocks as visitor. Mr. Wilson was elected Chairman, and Mr. Pine, Hon. Secretary. The reference from the meeting of Union of Unions was considered, viz.: "How best to increase the wages of the Blind in Workshops, having due regard to the Workshop paying its expenses," but most of the time was given to a consideration of the replies which had been received from the various Institutions for the Blind in the United Kingdom on a Bill that had been drafted by the Committee and circulated. The Bill is drawn up to provide for the technical education and employment of the Blind.

19. The Committee, appointed by the Conference, to consider the question of Preventable Blindness, met on February 5th, at 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W., when there were present, Councillor Collingwood, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Dr. Bishop Harman, Dr. Hartley, Mr. Ritchie, Councillor Warner, and Mr. H. J. Wilson. A letter was read from Miss Wright, regretting her inability to be present. Mr. Wilson was elected Chairman, and Councillor Collingwood, Hon. Secretary. Several matters were discussed, and it was agreed to devote the whole of Saturday, April 24th, to a full discussion on the subject.

20. The treat to the blind children of the London County Council Schools, which for several years has been generously given by the *Westminster Gazette* and others, was this year held at the Borough Polytechnic Hall, on Friday, February 5th. "The wind was cold," but for the children in their much-loved brakes, "the way was *not* long"; in fact, among some of the little guests a feeling of alarm had arisen lest this new Hall being so near the locality of their school, no ride in a brake would be considered necessary for them. But they need have had no fear! the chief organiser of this treat knows—better than most people—the happy "foolishness that is bound up in the heart of a child," and would not let them be disappointed if she had any power to prevent it.

The date originally fixed for the treat was January 29th, but Miss R. Petty, the energetic Hon. Secretary, received a notice from the L.C.C., only the day previously, that the entertainment must not be held in Essex Hall, on account of danger from fire, notwithstanding the fact that it has been held there for eight consecutive years without any previous remonstrance. Thus, at the eleventh hour, after all the plans had been matured, everything had to be countermanded, fresh invitations issued, extra expense incurred, and rearrangements made for meeting in another Hall. This was cheerfully and instantly undertaken by the organisers, in order to prevent disappointment to the children, but they have our sincerest sympathy in the unexpected and almost crushing mandate that nullified at the last moment all previous arrangements which had cost much time and hard work.

On account of the unavoidable postponement, there was a lamentable absence of some of those friends of the children who generally, by their music and recitations, increase the mirth of merry hearts and charm music-loving ears with sweet sounds. Still, *all* these kind friends had not other engagements for the new date, and the children loudly manifested their appreciation of the inspiring songs that were given, and even applauded a kind gramophone, which did its best to fill up unavoidable gaps in the programme.

The tables looked charming—as usual—being covered not only with the more material delights of cakes, and bread and butter, but also with dainty bunches of mimosa, wallflower, and narcissus—one for each child—while beside the plates lay mysterious little boxes—pink, blue, yellow, green, red, and royal purple boxes—containing ———— “What?” said the children. They didn’t know, except that they had been told not to open them until they reached home, lest the secret should escape, and be lost to them for ever. However, a few words from the platform enlightened them before the afternoon was over, and, as the children know now, other people may know too, if they care to read the following paragraph.

A word-making competition was offered by the Sunbeam Mission (Branch for the Blind) to *all* the blind children of the London Council Schools. A small box was given to each child, containing ten separate cardboard letters in Braille, out of which they were to endeavour to make the highest possible number of words.

The ten letters made up the word “Friendship,” and the result of the competition, in which the children were strictly forbidden to ask for, or to receive, any help, were as follows:—

Boys and girls of Linden Lodge and Elm Court Residential Schools:—

Prize, 5/-, Boy of 14 . . . 114 correct words.

“ 5/-, “ “ . . . 106 “ “

It should be mentioned that the girls at Elm Court Residential School were extremely occupied at this time in preparing for their annual prize-giving and speech-day, and could, therefore, not devote much time to the competition. In spite of this, twenty of them sent in papers which came very near to those of the prize-winning boys, in respect of number of words, and were superior to *all* others in tidiness and methodical arrangement.

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS OF DAY SCHOOLS OVER ELEVEN.

Prize, 4/-, Girl of 13 . . . 112 correct words.

“ 4/-, Girl of 12 . . . 110 “ “

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS OF DAY SCHOOLS UNDER ELEVEN AND
OVER NINE.

Prize, 3/-, Girl of 10 . . . 112 correct words.
 „ 3/-, Boy of 10 . . . 99 „ „

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS OF DAY SCHOOLS UNDER NINE.

Prize, 1/-, Girl of 8 . . . 78 correct words.
 „ 1/-, Girl of 8 . . . 67 „ „
 „ 1/-, Boy of 6 . . . 45 „ „

A special prize of 2/6 was offered to the boys of Stormont House School for Defective Blind Children, which has been gained by a boy of 13, who made 83 correct words. Many of the papers are remarkable for extreme accuracy, and a good proportion contain no error of any kind. The teachers have kindly promised to assist the prize-winners with their advice in the selection of a prize, as it is hoped that each child will buy something useful with the money received. Three hundred children were supplied with the boxes of letters, involving the hand-making of three thousand Braille letters. The scheme seems to have given much pleasure and caused great interest and perseverance.

21. The annual concerts at the General Institution for the Blind, Birmingham, were held in the two weeks commencing February 22nd. As is customary, the proceedings opened each evening with a Gymnastic Display by the pupils, and the enthusiastic applause of the visitors testified to the smartness and precision with which the children performed their exercises. They did the utmost credit to their instructor, Mr. George Wood. At the conclusion of the Gymnastic Display the visitors made an inspection of the Workshops, to see the blind workers at their various occupations, and to purchase the goods made by them. The concerts which followed each evening at 8.30 were most creditable to the pupils and their teachers, and the Lantern Lectures delivered by the new Superintendent, Mr. W. H. Thurman, created much interest, illustrating as they did the work of educating, employing, and assisting the Blind. The sales during the eight evenings amounted to £106 4s., and the collections and donations to £11 4s. 11d., while the total number of visitors was 1,970.

22. The Belfast Workshops for the Blind unfortunately suffered last year a heavy loss through a serious fire, which completely destroyed the main buildings, thus hampering the work and injuring the trade to such an extent that the sales last year fell off by £2,500. Our readers will sympathise, we are sure, with Mr. Hewitt, the capable and hardworking Manager, in this set-back to his progressive work on behalf of the Blind, and in the necessity for his making an earnest appeal for considerable monetary assistance, which is so difficult to obtain in Ireland that he has to make his needs known in England also. There is no question that the Workshops are doing a great and necessary work with very little support. There are 130 employed, and others can be received, if funds were forthcoming. According to the last census there were 5,470 blind persons in Ireland.

23. So much has been written in the press about the centenary of the birth of Louis Braille, that few words are necessary in these pages, which are read almost exclusively by those who owe a debt of gratitude to the inventor of the Braille system for the Blind that can never be repaid. Louis Braille was born on January 27th, 1809, at the little village of Coupvray, and went blind at three years of age. In 1819 he entered the "Institution Nationale des jeunes aveugles," in Paris, and was a brilliant pupil and good player on the pianoforte and violoncello. The idea of a system of points, based on Charles Barbier's invention, occurred to him about 1825, when he was still a pupil at school. In 1829 a pamphlet was printed setting forth the use and practise of his system, but it was not officially adopted until 1840. Subsequently he became one of the professors at the Institution, and won the hearts of all his pupils by his sweet, but firm discipline, and by his readiness to give them good advice at all times. He was organist at the "Chapelle des Lazaristes," and it is interesting to know that, ever since, the appointment has been held by a blind man. He died on January 5th, 1852, leaving the Blind throughout the world an inestimable heritage. The centenary proceedings took place on January 27th and 28th, at the Institution where he was educated.

An ode to Louis Braille was written by Monsr. Gilbeau, and a concert and banquet were held in honour of this most illustrious pupil. The Braille point system, as stated in the invitations, has conquered the world and revolutionised the mode of teaching the Blind.

24. The annual entertainment, given to the blind work-people at the Institution, 258, Tottenham Court Road, London, took place on January 19th. Captain Towse, V.C., presided. A substantial dinner of roast beef, plum pudding, &c., was provided for over 100 persons, and subsequently an excellent concert, for which the programmes were prepared in Braille, was given. Everybody seemed thoroughly happy, and thought the arrangements most successful.

25. There have, unfortunately, been children attending schools for the Blind all over the country who possess a certain degree of sight. They have left school as blind people and followed trades usually taken up by them, whereas they have sufficient sight to follow some other occupation. The London County Council, therefore, is making an experiment with the cases of high myopia in connection with the Boundary Lane School. The children will attend the school for sighted children for all oral subjects, drill and singing, and the special class-room for writing, arithmetic and manual occupations. The writing and figures will be about four inches square. The class-room is to be fitted up with special blackboard table arrangements and lighting. Braille writing, Braille reading, and type arithmetic will be excluded. It is confidently hoped that by this new method of teaching, these children will be able to enter the sighted market for employment, and thus afford better opportunities for the totally blind to earn their living by the trades usually taught them.

26. We have been sent the balance sheet for 1908 of the London and Provincial Sick Benefit Society for the Blind. The Society is not very large (37 members), but seems meeting a great need, when similar societies for sighted persons will not

accept the Blind as members. Over £32 were paid out in sick benefits. The Secretary is Mr. J. Smith, 17, Aylesford Street, Grosvenor Road, Pimlico, London, S.W., who will be pleased to give information about the Society.

27. On January 14th, the Lord Mayor of Bradford gave a New Year's Dinner to about 150 of the Blind and workers connected with the Bradford Institution for the Blind. There was an excellent menu, which, as a novelty, was printed in both Braille and ordinary letterpress, and bore good portraits of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress. After dinner pipes and tobacco were supplied to the men and boxes of chocolate to the women, and there was a capital entertainment.

THE UNIONS OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

A most interesting and epoch-making meeting of representatives of the Unions of Societies for the Blind in England and Wales was held at the Offices of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., on Saturday, 6th February, 1909, at 11 a.m., when there were present:—

Metropolitan Union. Miss E. M. Bainbrigg, Mrs. F. J. Campbell, Dr. F. J. Campbell, Mr. Guy Campbell, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mrs. Inglis, Mr. Stuart Johnson, Mr. Wm. Lempriere, Miss Moon, Miss B. Taylor, Mr. H. J. Wilson.

Midland Union. Mr. S. M. Burrows, Miss A. J. Merivale, Mr. H. W. P. Pine.

North of England Union. Mrs. Greg, Dr. R. N. Hartley, Miss. I. M. Heywood, Mr. W. H. Illingworth, Mr. S. Maddocks, Mr. A. B. Norwood, Mr. T. Warner, Miss E. Wright.

North West Union. Miss Margaret Comber, Miss H. J. Foulkes, Mr. W. Mair, Miss C. Smale.

South Wales and Monmouth Union. Mr. J. Hall.

Western Counties Union. Mr. C. M. Collingwood.

Visitors. Councillor G. Barker, Mr. Priestley, Mr. Stainsby.

Apologies for non-attendance were reported on behalf of Miss M. E. Comber, Sir John Brickwood, Mr. Horlick, Captain Metcalfe, Mr. Munby, Mr. H. M. Taylor, F.R.S. and Mr. Greek Wills.

Mr. Wilson, having been voted to the Chair, explained that at the request of the North of England Union he had called this particular meeting to confer on subjects of common interest, to exchange ideas, and to perfect, as far as possible, the working of the seven Unions, and to discuss principally how best to secure uniformity of action in all the Unions. He thought that it would not be advisable to pass any formal resolutions at this meeting, but he hoped, nevertheless, that the various points would be discussed in a friendly way, and that the expression of opinion of the majority present would be carefully considered and adopted, as far as possible, by each Union. He regretted that Mr. H. M. Taylor, of the Eastern Union, was unable to attend, and also that Mr. Munby, Chairman of the North of England Union, could not be present. He considered that the formation of these Unions, with which the names of Miss I. M. Heywood, Mr. Frew Bryden and Dr. Campbell would always stand out prominently, was the greatest and most earnest effort yet made to grapple with the whole question of the Blind. In conclusion, he said that immediate results from the Unions must not be expected, as nothing practical can be done until the registers are completed, and a vast amount of hard work has to be accomplished in creating new agencies in districts where at present there is no organisation at all for the benefit of the Blind.

Mr. Guy M. Campbell was appointed Secretary of the Meeting.

After discussion it was agreed, on the motion of Miss Heywood, seconded by the Rev. St. Clare Hill, that a Central Union of Unions should be formed consisting of three delegates from each Union, it being understood that it is advisable that the Chairman and Secretary should be two of those delegates. It was further agreed that the Central Union should hold its next meeting at the Offices of Gardner's Trust, and that a meet-

ing should be called as soon as possible (and certainly within six months) after Mr. Wilson received the names of the three delegates which each Union elected to the Central Union.

The methods of securing uniformity of action were then discussed, and it was agreed to refer to the Central Union the questions of form of constitution and similar enquiry papers. It was suggested that an interchange of minutes was a matter for mutual agreement, all the Conveners present apparently signifying their willingness to effect the interchange. The questions of Decentralization and of Aftercare were also referred to the Central Union, after remarks, showing the necessity for each, had been made by several speakers. A paper by the Rev. St. Clare Hill on the definition of Blindness which had been accepted by the Metropolitan Union, was read and explained by him to the meeting, but as there was considerable divergence of opinion as to the adequacy of the wording, it was agreed that the wording of this definition and the best method of distributing leaflets on the Prevention of Blindness be referred to the Prevention of Blindness Committee.

It having been pointed out by representatives both of the North of England and of the Metropolitan Unions how useful and effective the Constabulary maps and the Constabulary assistance had been, it was unanimously agreed on the motion of Mr. Hall of the South Wales Union, seconded by Miss Heywood of the North of England Union, that the Constabulary system and maps should be used. Miss Wright suggested that the Secretaries of the different Unions would find the Annual Report of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association most useful, and also the Constabulary Almanac, obtainable from the Offices of the *Manchester Courier*, 22, Cannon Street, Manchester, at a price of 1s. 6d.

The question was raised as to what action should be taken when a town or village proved to be half in one county and half in another, so as to prevent overlapping. It was the general opinion that the difficulty should be solved by mutual agreement between the two Unions concerned.

It was reported that the Metropolitan Union was able to

state that nearly all the blind within its area over the age of 70 had applied for the Government Old Age Pension. A discussion arose as to whether the age of 70, so far as blind people were concerned, was not too late an age. Some speakers advocated 50, others 60. Finally, it was agreed to refer the whole question to the Pensions' Committee, together with a letter stating that it was the opinion of the majority of this Conference that in the case of blind persons the age for the Government Pension should be 60 instead of 70.

The question "How best to increase the wages of the Blind in workshops, having due regard to the workshop paying its expenses" was referred to the National Employment Committee.

Mr. Wilson announced that an anonymous donor had kindly promised £5 5s. so as to guarantee the expenses for the first year's working of the Central Union.

The North of England Union. During the last quarter much has happened in the work of the North of England Union. The quarterly and executive committee meetings were both held on January 23rd, at Leeds, at the Institution for the Blind. The Chairman, Hon. Secretary, and some members of the Leeds Committee attended, to cordially welcome the Union.

At the general meeting in the afternoon, the Rev. N. F. MacNeile proposed that the Chairman be asked to convey to Dr. Maclagan, the ex-Archbishop of York, the appreciation of his valued services and interest in the Union, as its first President.

It was announced that Lord Nunburnholme had kindly assented to take the place of the late Lord Herries, as Vice-President, being Lord Lieutenant for East Yorkshire; and that Lord Shuttleworth had promised to preside at the annual meeting at Preston, on May 1st.

The arrangements for the annual meeting were left in the hands of Lieut.-Colonel Jolly, Secretary to the Homes for the Blind at Preston.

A conference is to be held in the afternoon of the same day, when one paper only will be read, viz. : on "The Future Work of

the Union," by Mr. A. B. Norwood, M.A., Yorkshire School for the Blind. The discussion is to be opened by Mr. W. H. Illingworth, Henshaw's Blind Asylum.

The balance sheet for 1908 was read and approved. Miss E. Wright was asked to continue her work as Organising Secretary for another year, and consented to do so.

The next quarterly and executive committee meetings were fixed for April 3rd, at Manchester, in the Blind Aid Society's Central Rooms.

In January a circular was issued to all Agencies for the Blind in the North, inviting the Committees of each to define the areas and boundaries of their operations, and asking each to adopt, as far as possible, the Constabulary Divisions.

Replies are still coming in, and the Union will soon be able to ascertain the untouched districts in which Home Visiting Societies are required to reach the scattered Blind. Small sectional maps, beautifully prepared by hand, by Mr. Harold Dalton, a young architect in Wakefield, have been sent to each centre, to aid this scheme.

Circular letters have also been sent to all the Borough Chief Constables in the North, through the valuable aid of Mr. T. M. Harris, Chief Constable of Wakefield, asking them to aid in completing the Register of blind persons in the North and thus to follow the lead of the County Chief Constables.

The replies are most encouraging, as with one or two exceptions, all the Constables are willing to give any assistance they can in obtaining information.

The Organising Secretary has attended, and been asked to speak at, the following meetings:—On February 5th a memorable meeting was held at Oxford, in the Hall of Brazenose College, where Elizabeth Gilbert, founder of the Tottenham Court Road Workshops, lived her early life; and where Miss Heberden now carries on work for the Blind, as Hon. Secretary for the Oxford Society, and provides books in Braille for the undergraduates.

The meeting at Scarborough, on March 5th, was full of hope that a Visiting Association will be formed for the district.

The annual meeting and show of work of the Barnsley Visiting Society, was held on March 10th, and was most

encouraging. The energetic Hon. Secretary, Miss E. Elmhirst and Mrs. Hobart, the Visitor, are endeavouring to reach all the Blind within that area.

The annual meeting of the Wakefield Society was held on February 17th, when the Rev. N. F. MacNeile, the Rev. John Swinnerton, and Mr. Albert Siddall (three quondam students at Worcester Blind College), and Mr. Munby, kindly attended and spoke.

Last, but not least, the meeting in London, on February 6th, when representatives of all the Unions lately formed throughout the country met for mutual consultation, and to form one Central Union of Unions.

It was truly a wonderful climax to all the pioneering work which the North of England Union has been carrying on for the good of the scattered Blind, to meet fellow workers representing six other Unions, formed on the same lines, and for them all to join hands in mutual service on an organised system throughout England and Wales for union and co-operation, under God's guidance, in order especially to aid their blind brothers and sisters, hitherto outside and beyond the reach of existing Agencies.

The Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union. A meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the rooms of the Gardner's Trust, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., on Saturday, 30th January, at 12 noon. Mr. H. J. Wilson (Chair), Miss B. Taylor, Dr. Campbell, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mr. Lempriere, Mrs. Campbell and Mr. Guy Campbell.

Letters of regret for inability to attend the meeting were reported on behalf of Mrs. Inglis, Miss Bainbrigge, Miss Moon and Sir John Brickwood.

A signed working agreement between the Blind Tea Agency, the London and Provincial Tea Co. and the Union was presented and approved.

A table of the further return of Blind persons showed that since the last meeting in December, 622 additional forms had been received bringing the total up to 1,448.

The Hon. Secretary was requested to give the names and addresses of each of the Schools, Workshops, Institutions and Societies for the Blind within the area of the Union, together with the names of the respective Superintendents or Head Teachers.

The amended enquiry form submitted by the Hon. Secretary was approved and adopted.

The draft annual report for the year ended the 31st December, 1908, was read, and after a few minor amendments adopted for presentation to the Council.

The Rev. St. Clare Hill read a paper on what he considered the best definition of Blindness.

The actual wording of the definition was discussed at length, and the following form of words was finally adopted :— "Children and adults are to be considered blind where want of sight prevents them from being trained in an ordinary school, or from earning a living by sighted means."

The Chairman submitted a draft Agenda for use at the Union of Unions Meeting on the 6th February, which was unanimously approved.

A meeting of the Council was held at 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., on Saturday, 30th January, at 2.30 p.m.

Mr. H. J. Wilson (Chair), Miss E. Austin, Miss E. M. Bainbrigge, Mrs. F. J. Campbell, Miss M. M. Martin, Miss Moon, Miss B. Taylor, Rev. P. T. Bainbrigge, Dr. F. J. Campbell, Mr. A. Carr, Mr. C. E. Dustow, Mr. E. C. Hamley, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mr. Stuart Johnson, Mr. W. Lempriere, Mr. T. H. Martin, Rev. B. R. V. Mills, Mr. H. Wagg and Mr. Guy M. Campbell.

Letters of regret for inability to attend the Meeting were reported on behalf of Mrs. Goodbody, Mrs. Inglis, Sir John Brickwood, Mr. Edmonds, Mr. Morphey and Mr. Walford.

The Hon. Treasurer presented his report for the year ending the 31st December, 1908. This was received and approved, and the Hon. Treasurer was requested to have the same audited ready for printing in the Annual Report.

The Chairman presented and read the draft Annual Report

which had been approved by the Executive Committee, and after one or two verbal alterations, it was unanimously adopted on the motion of Dr. Campbell, seconded by the Rev. P. T. Bainbrigge. It was agreed that the list of subscribers to the Union should be printed with the report, and that 3,000 copies of the report be printed. It was agreed that no advertisements should appear in the report.

The enquiry forms with a few verbal alterations were approved and adopted.

It was agreed to approach the Lord Lieutenants of the different counties connected with the Union, with a view to their becoming Vice-Presidents.

It was unanimously agreed that the Hon. Secretary be requested to convey the heartiest thanks of the meeting to Miss Wright for the admirable manner in which she executed all typed matter for the Metropolitan Union.

The Western Counties Union. The Chief Constables (County and Borough) with the exception of two, have readily co-operated in furnishing the particulars asked of them. A Home Teaching Society has been formed at Bath. Miss Beavan organised the inaugural meeting, which was convened by the Mayor of Bath. The Rev. S. F. Harris gave an interesting and instructive address.

The North West Union. The annual meetings of the Home Teaching Societies have been held in the different branches. On March 29th there was to be a public meeting of the Chester Home Teaching Society for the Blind, at the Town Hall, Chester. The Mayor was to take the chair, and the chief speakers were to be the Rev. N. F. McNeile and Miss Isabel Heywood.

The South Wales and Monmouthshire Union. During the last three months returns have been received from the Chiefs of Police of all the Counties and Boroughs, with the exception of one Borough, and it is hoped that this return will be received shortly.

The total number of blind persons in this Union (excluding one Borough) is 916, of the following ages:—Under 5 years, 6; 5 to 7, 7; 7 to 10, 8; 10 to 13, 10; 13 to 15, 8; 15 to 20, 21; 20 to 25, 33; 25 to 35, 64; 35 to 45, 100; 45 to 55, 138; 55 to 65, 149; 65 to 75, 177; 75 to 90, 195. Of these, 159 have been trained in Institutions or Workshops, and 757 have not received training.

Local Education Authorities have been given particulars of the children of school age numbering 10, who are not at present being educated, and it is hoped that steps will soon be taken by the Authorities to send them to an Institution.

To the Blind of 70 years of age and upwards reply post cards have been sent offering to assist those not in receipt of Old Age Pensions, and replies have been received as follows:—41 have obtained Old Age Pensions; 50 are in receipt of Parish Relief; 6 have private means; 3 are helped by relatives; 5 have pensions from other sources; and 8 are being assisted by this Union in obtaining Old Age Pensions.

It has not been possible yet to complete arrangements for local Committees.

There are in South Wales and Monmouthshire:—

One residential Institution and Workshops at Swansea, and one Workshop for Adult Blind at Cardiff.

Societies for Home Visitation are established at Newport, Cardiff, Swansea, Carmarthen, and Haverfordwest, and material help is also given to the Blind by each of these Societies.

There are Homes for the Blind at Llandeudov, near Newport, and at the Mumbles, near Swansea.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

All comment or agitation to bring into more prominence, especially before the lay public, the need and the duty of the prevention of Blindness, is helpful; and, therefore, I was glad to see in "The Blind" for October, a criticism by Dr. Nimmo Walker of my paper at the International Conference.

Dr. Walker's statement that in the United States "every State has its own laws: drastic and ill-considered measures are hustled through the legislature to see how they will work, and people show their freedom by disobeying them," is open to question. These generalizations are not essential to the problem of prevention. Dr. Walker seems to have overlooked the prudence and significance of the distinction in America between State and Federal laws, and that this distinction most wisely leads each State to cope with the problems which, in our vast country, owing to climatic and other considerations, such as population, natural resources, etc., must be peculiar to it. If Dr. Walker cares to study the reasons for the difference between English and American methods of legislation, I would refer him to his own distinguished compatriot and our best critic, the Honourable James Bryce, our Ambassador from Great Britain, in his book, "The American Commonwealth," especially chapters 28 and 36.

Returning to the subject of prevention, I will first say, as I did at the Conference, that I spoke essentially from the layman's point of view, and that I quoted freely from "Doctors, Philanthropists and Students from many lands." Information as to preventive measures in England I obtained from Miss Edith Wright, the Secretary of the Northern Union, and Mr. Wilson, of Gardner's Trust. Such recommendations as I made were either quoted directly from Dr. F. Park Lewis, the Chairman of the Committee on Ophthalmia Neonatorum of the American Medical Association, or other authorities, or taken from the laws or the regulations of Health Boards, etc.

The two points in my paper to which Dr. Walker takes objection are: (1) The use of a prophylactic installation of 1% silver nitrate solution into the eyes of every new-born infant (Credè's method modified by the reduction of the solution from 2% to 1%). (2) The notification of every case of ophthalmia neonatorum. Against his first objection I will quote the reply of Dr. Hiram Woods, President of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland.

“As regards Dr. Walker’s quotation of Miss Holt that “there is no question that even with doctors the unfailing use of prophylactic must be made imperative,” I should limit this to maternity hospitals, dispensary practice, and children born of mothers with known infection, in private practice. In private practice, among the wealthier classes, this disease is of rare occurrence, and while distressing cases of blindness occur even among these people, the use of a preventive must be left to the physician’s judgment, and the responsibility placed upon him. I question, if Miss Holt had in mind, when writing, physicians’ private work. In dispensary or hospital practice, there are two important things to note; first, the people treated are usually ignorant and present the greatest number of dangerous infections; secondly, the physicians in charge of such cases are often young, and their judgment is not always infallible—better a few cases of silver catarrh from unnecessary zeal, than a blind baby from undetected infection.”

In America, the use of a prophylactic by midwives and doctors seems to be constantly gaining in favour, I have a letter from Dr. Park Lewis, the authority on ophthalmia neonatorum.

“Doctor Walker raises the question which comes up whenever this subject is discussed: ‘Should a prophylactic be invariably employed in every case — If so, why? — and what? * * * * *

Infections occur only when a previous infection exists in the mother. This happens in from one in fifty to one in two hundred cases. Under such conditions the best and most effective prophylactics that are known should be used, because, while such inflammations are almost always controllable when once started, they occasionally develop with frightful rapidity, and destructive results follow. Why, then, take such a chance, when the prophylactic is itself harmless. The irritation is very slight following a 1% nitrate of silver solution, and passes quickly away. Credé’s own results are unanswerable. We have been very careful not to dogmatically insist upon any special drug, but in the canvas taken among the obstetricians and ophthalmo-

logists by our Committee two years ago, the opinion by an enormous majority favoured 1% silver nitrate—certainly as a routine in all hospital work. The physician may feel that in cases about which he has full knowledge, he may depend on asepsis alone; but, if so, he should state this on the birth certificate, thereby giving assurance that the individual case has been considered, and he omits prophylaxis deliberately and intentionally. Fuchs, who is one of the most eminent ophthalmologists in Europe, says: "That prophylaxis, as introduced into practice by Credè, is proved to be efficient."

Dr. Walker says: "the diminution of blindness due to ophthalmia neonatorum is coincident with the general diminution of septic diseases, and is due, not to Credè's or any other special method, &c." But the conditions are not parallel. In infant ophthalmia the germ is contracted from the parent, and must be exterminated by an antiseptic, while in the surgeon's case, he is not fighting a germ, but trying to keep things clean or aseptic, to prevent the introduction of germs. Dr. Wood says that after all, "what does the world-wide use of antiseptics mean? Credè's method is nothing but the application of the antiseptic principle to the preservation of eyesight. It would be as sensible to say that a particular lane leading to a destination should not be taken, because this lane is only part of a city's highways, as to say that the recognised result of Credè's method should not be attributed to this particular form of antiseptics."

Dr. Walker states that my second proposition, "compulsory notification," seems to be based on a misconception of the purpose of the Infectious Diseases Act. Dr. Woods answers this by: "The Compulsory Notification Act in America has, as its main object, securing proper treatment in the beginning of the disease. Universal experience shows prognosis is good or bad according to the promptness with which correct treatment is instituted. Compulsory notification is not intended to protect others, it is intended to secure for the baby proper treatment."

Dr. Walker says: "if the practitioner is to be punished for non-notification, in self defence he will notify every case of inflammation, even the slightest." To this Dr. Woods answers:

"If Dr. Walker means by 'practitioner,' a physician, his criticism is not pertinent, for Miss Holt's recommendations are definitely confined to midwives."

As to Dr. Walker's dilemma that under my first proposition every infant will have more or less silver catarrh, &c., I quote the following letter from the President of the New York City Health Board:—

" the matter of compelling midwives to use a one per cent. solution of nitrate of silver in the eyes of every newborn infant, has been carefully considered by the Board of Health of this city. It has finally been decided to make the use of this solution obligatory.

"Even if a catarrh from the use of the silver occurs, it would in my opinion, be of little moment as contrasted to the possibilities of ophthalmia.

"We have no notification fees in this city, so that objection has no bearing upon this matter here."

In concluding his criticism Dr. Walker says, that I am myself, "the best witness against the adoption of such 'drastic measures,'" and quotes what I wrote.

If the midwife should be furnished with the required antiseptic, free of cost, by the local Health Board, as was suggested in my paper, there is no reason why she should not use it. If this should cause an inflammation in the child's eyes, which would sometimes, but not invariably, occur, with a notification of this condition to the Health Board, the midwife has fulfilled what the proposed law would require. Dr. Woods says in this connection: "The difficulties of discovering blind babies will be best got rid of by preventing their becoming blind, and if midwives can be impressed with the fact that compulsory notification is intended to secure for the baby proper treatment at the proper time, and that with this notification their responsibility ends, they will be eager, not reluctant, to report their occurrence." In America the notification fee is limited to a half-penny postal.

In regard to Dr. Walker's summary of what is being done in England, it is hardly necessary to point out that all new legislation must have at one time been untried. But we in

America are so optimistic and so fond of the Mother Country, that we are seeking eagerly for every possible method which may help, in either country, to stop the one half of blindness which should be stopped at once. Such efforts created the Special Committee for the prevention of ophthalmia neonatorum of the American Medical Association, which consists entirely of doctors; and a lay committee of the New York Association for the Blind, which includes the Presidents of both the State and City Health Boards of New York.

It was as a member of this Committee that I had the honour of being a delegate to the National Congress, and of speaking on the subject of prevention. Subsequent to the consequent discussion, a lay committee for the prevention of blindness was formed in England. The endeavour of both the medical and lay committees in America is to seek out the best methods for prevention, and to secure their adoption in all the States, and it is hoped ultimately in all countries.

I hope that it has been demonstrated that the best thought and effort in America are being given in opposition to having "drastic and ill-considered measures hurried through the legislature to see how they work," and that effort is being made for uniform co-operation in a campaign to prevent what is, in all our civilisations, both an uneconomic and inhumane anomaly—unnecessary blindness.

WINIFRED HOLT,

*Hon. Secretary of the New York Association
for the Blind.*

December 1st, 1908.

COLLEGE OF TEACHERS OF THE BLIND.

Three important meetings have recently taken place in connection with the College, viz.: the first annual meeting and two meetings of the Executive Committee.

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held at 53, Victoria Street, London, on January 23rd, when there were present Dr. and Mrs. Campbell, Miss L. Douglas-Hamilton, Miss Garaway, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mr. Illingworth, Mr. B. P. Jones, Rev. H. T. G. Kingdon, Messrs. Maddocks, Pearson, Pine, Stainsby (Registrar), and H. J. Wilson (Chairman). Apologies for

non-attendance were received from Rev. T. Barnard, Hon. A. M. Kinnaird, Messrs. Littlewood, Norwood, and H. M. Taylor.

It was decided, on the suggestion of the Chairman, that "*Visi Dominus frustra*" should be adopted as the College motto.

The draft of the annual report was submitted, amended and approved. The accounts for the year ended December 31st, 1908, were submitted and approved subject to verification by the auditors.

The agenda paper for the annual meeting was carefully considered and agreed to.

The proposed syllabus for 1909 was submitted and approved and the examination was fixed for early in July in London. It was agreed that the constitution of the College be so modified as to permit the bestowal of Fellowships on persons who have done distinguished service in the education of the Blind. The Rev. Arthur Taylor was elected a member of the Executive Committee, and it was agreed to ask Dr. Ranger to act as Hon. Solicitor. Seven members retired from the Executive Committee by ballot, but are eligible for re-election at the annual meeting. The following were appointed examiners for the year 1909, viz.: Miss Garaway, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. Illingworth, Maddocks, Merrick, Norwood and Pearson.

The first annual meeting took place at 53, Victoria Street, at 2.30 p.m. on February 6th, when Lord Kinnaird presided, and there was a most representative gathering, the following being present:—The Ven. the Archdeacon of Middlesex; Miss Austin Sec. National Lending Library for the Blind, London; Miss E. M. Bainbrigge, Sec. Home Teaching Society for the Blind, London; Miss Bryan, Head Teacher of L.C.C. Special School for Blind Defectives; Dr. F. J. Campbell, Principal, Mrs. F. J. Campbell, Hon. Lady Superintendent, and Mr. Guy M. Campbell, Vice-Principal, Royal Normal College, Upper Norwood, S.E.; Councillor C. M. Collingwood, Superintendent, Institution for the Blind, Exeter; Miss L. Douglas-Hamilton, Eyes to the Blind Society, London; Miss Everett, Assistan Hon. Sec., Sunbeam Mission (branch for blind children); Mrs. Arthur Greg, North of England Union, and Workshops for

the Blind, Bolton ; Mr. Joseph Hall, Hon. Sec. Institution for the Blind, Swansea ; Miss I. M. Heywood, Hon. Sec. Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society and Founder of the North of England Union ; Rev. St. Clare Hill, Principal, School for the Blind, Leatherhead ; Mr. T. W. Hunter, Sec. Westminster Diocesan Education Fund ; Mr. W. H. Illingworth, Superintendent, Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester ; Mr. Stuart Johnson, Trustee of Day's Charity, London ; Lt. Col. Jolly, Secretary, Homes for the Blind, Preston ; Mr. B. P. Jones, Superintendent, L.C.C. Special Schools ; Rev. H. T. G. Kingdon, Superintendent, Institution for the Blind, Bristol ; Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, Hon. Treasurer of the College ; Mr. S. Maddocks, Superintendent, School for the Blind, Sheffield ; Mr. T. H. Martin, Secretary, Institution for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, London ; Rev. Barton Mills, Vice-Chairman, Association for the Blind, London ; Miss Moon, Hon. Sec. Moon's Society, Brighton ; Mr. A. B. Norwood, Superintendent, School for the Blind, York ; Mr. Pearson, Teacher, Royal Normal College ; Mr. Pine, Superintendent, Institution for the Blind, Nottingham ; Mr. Priestley, Secretary and Manager, Institution for the Blind, Bradford ; Dr. Ranger, Executive Council, British and Foreign Blind Association ; Mrs. Ranger ; Miss Rothwell, L.C.C. School ; Miss Russell, West Norwood ; Miss Scott, Editor "Weekly Summary" ; Mr. Stainsby, Hon. Registrar of the College ; Miss Beatrice Taylor, Hon. Sec. Sunbeam Mission (branch for blind children) ; Mr. Thurman, General Superintendent and Secretary, Institution for the Blind, Birmingham ; Mr. H. J. Wagg, Hon. Sec. Barclay Workshop for Blind Women, London ; Mr. H. J. Wilson, Chairman of the Council of the College ; Mrs. H. J. Wilson ; Miss Edith Wright, Hon. Sec., Workshops for the Blind, Wakefield, and Organising Secretary, North of England Union.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Miss Adler, Mr. Blair, Miss Blott, Mr. J. Frew Bryden, Hon. Mrs. Campion, Mr. W. H. Dixon, Sir Matthew Dodsworth, Bart., Dr. J. Fletcher Little, Messrs. A. L. Lowe, Colin Macdonald, F. J. Munby, W. Robertson, W. W. Stone, A. J. Story and E. Vernon.

The Chair was taken at 2.30 p.m. by the Right Hon. Lord

Kinnaird, who called on the Archdeacon of Middlesex to open the meeting with prayer. Lord Kinnaird gave an introductory address, congratulating those present on the establishment of the College and its first year's work. He said that the public needed to be awakened to a sense of their duty to give the Blind every advantage in the way of training, and when trained to give them a fair chance of holding suitable posts, provided they were competent. He concluded by saying that the College had a good deal of work in front of it, and he hoped its second year would be as successful as its first.

The Registrar announced that negotiations were now in progress with the Board of Education, which it was hoped would result before long in the College being recognised by the Board.

The registrar read the annual report and financial statement for 1908, from which the following is an extract:—

“The College of Teachers of the Blind was established with the primary object of encouraging teachers to submit their special qualifications for teaching the Blind to the scrutiny of an accredited examining body, so that upon proof of fitness a certificate of efficiency might be awarded to them. The idea of the formation of the College originated with Dr. Eichholz, His Majesty's Inspector of special schools.

The first meeting was called on 5th July, 1907, by the Council of the British and Foreign Blind Association, and was held at their offices in Great Portland Street, London, W. The meeting was very representative and was largely attended. Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Secretary of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, was unanimously elected chairman. Dr. Eichholz was present, and explained to the meeting the very useful purpose that the College would serve in the education of the Blind by raising the standard of teachers engaged in this special work. A draft of the proposed rules, regulations, and syllabus was submitted, amended, and generally approved. The following important resolution was adopted by the meeting:—

“That all present co-operate, and that an Association be, and is hereby, formed embracing the United Kingdom, and entitled “The College of Teachers of the Blind,” the object of which shall be to conduct Examinations of Teachers of

the Blind in accordance with the rules and regulations which shall be now and subsequently drafted."

The first and only examination was held at Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester, on 24th and 25th July, 1908, by kind permission of the Board of Management of that Institution. Thirty-three candidates (15 men and 18 women) entered for the examination, but of these, 6 for various reasons were not present, so that 27 candidates were actually examined—9 men and 18 women. Of these, 7 candidates—4 men and 3 women—satisfied the examiners in all compulsory subjects, and were awarded certificates. viz. :—

Joseph Crocker, Honours in Theoretical Braille and Practical Braille.

Susie G. McKendrick, Honours in Arithmetic.

Margaret Morris, Honours in Arithmetic.

John M. Ritchie, Honours in Arithmetic, Practical Teaching, and History of the Education of the Blind.

Phœbe Schofield, Honours in Practical Teaching.

Lister S. Smith, Honours in Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Arithmetic, and History of the Education of the Blind.

Charles F. Tivey, Honours in Practical Braille, Arithmetic, and Moon's System.

The Hon. Arthur M. Kinnaird has been appointed Hon. Treasurer, and Messrs. Barclay and Co., 95, Victoria Street, S.W., Bankers.

The office of the College is that of the British and Foreign Blind Association, Great Portland Street, W., and the Registrar is Mr. Henry Stainsby, the Secretary-General of the Association.

A seal of the College has been purchased, and an impression of it will appear on all Certificates issued to Teachers."

The Treasurer's Statement of Account, duly audited, was presented to the meeting.

The adoption of the Report was moved by Dr. Ranger, who referred to the great change that had taken place during recent years in the general view of the Blind. Blindness, he said, was now recognised as a pure deduction, and that there was a grand residue of faculties which was well worth cultivating. He thought the College would be very useful in the education of the Blind, by raising the standard of the teachers.

The Archdeacon of Middlesex, in seconding, alluded to the appropriateness of the motto and referred to the number of failures in the examination held last year, which proved the thoroughness with which it must have been conducted. He also referred to the great advantages that must accrue to the Blind from having a College to test the qualifications of teachers. The motion was carried unanimously.

The following appointments for 1909 were formally proposed, seconded and carried:—Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Chairman; Hon. Arthur M. Kinnaird, Hon. Treasurer; Dr. Ranger, Hon. Solicitor; Messrs. Drury, Thurgood & Co., Hon. Auditors; and Mr. Henry Stainsby, Hon. Registrar. It was moved by Mr. Stuart Johnson (London), seconded by Lt.-Col. T. R. Jolly (Preston), and carried, that the Revs. H. T. G. Kingdon, Arthur Taylor, Messrs. Norwood, Pearson, Pine, H. M. Taylor, W. E. Taylor, and H. J. Wilson, be and they are hereby re-appointed members of the Executive Committee.

The Registrar then briefly described the modifications of the Constitution of the College, and on the motion of Mr. Guy M. Campbell (Vice-Principal of the Royal Normal College), seconded by Mr. Priestley (Secretary and Manager of the Bradford Institution for the Blind), it was unanimously resolved “that the modifications of the Constitution of the College, as submitted by the Registrar by the authority of the Executive Committee, be and they are hereby approved.”

A most successful meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to Lord Kinnaird for presiding, and to the two speakers, Dr. Ranger and the Archdeacon of Middlesex, moved by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Stainsby, and carried unanimously with acclamation.

The Executive Committee of the College met at 2 p.m. on February 20th, at 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W., when there were present:—Dr. and Mrs. Campbell, Miss L. Douglas-Hamilton, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. Illingworth, Jones, Maddocks, Norwood, Pearson, Pine, Dr. Ranger, Mr. Stainsby (Registrar), Rev. A. Taylor and Mr. H. J. Wilson (Chairman).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Miss Garaway, Rev. H. T. G. Kingdon, Messrs. E. Taylor & H. M. Taylor.

Mr. Wilson was elected Chairman of the Committee.

Mr. B. P. Jones reported that the Boundary Lane School, L.C.C., Walworth, would be available for the purposes of the next examination in the first week in July. It was agreed that the examination fee be not returned in any case, except for cause satisfactory to the Committee.

Several suggestions were made for modifying the syllabus and for the conduct of the examination, and were referred to the examiners for their consideration.

The question of appointing a President and more Vice-Presidents, was discussed, and it was decided to take no action in the matter at present. Mr. Stuart Johnson was elected a member of the Committee. A very important letter dated February 1st, from the Board of Education to the Registrar, was read and carefully considered paragraph by paragraph. In the letter it was stated that if the regulations of the Board were modified in a way mentioned, it would be possible for the Board, provided they were satisfied as to the standard of the examinations held by the College, to recognise it in either of two ways. The letter then goes on :—

“In the meantime I am directed to state that the Board would, before giving any such recognition, require the adoption of adequate safeguards as to the standard of the Examination to be held by the College of Teachers of the Blind, and I am to inquire whether, for this purpose, the College would be prepared to consent to the following conditions :—

(a) That the names of all Examiners should, before appointment, be submitted to the Board for approval.

(b) That a representative of the Board should act as Assessor at the Examinations conducted by the College, under conditions similar to those which are now in force in the case of certain Examinations of students in Training Colleges conducted by Joint Examining Bodies and accepted by the Board as a qualification for the ordinary Elementary Teacher's Certificate.”

The Committee unanimously adopted the conditions imposed, and considered them perfectly fair and reasonable.

The Blind.

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JULY 20TH, 1909.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before September 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. It is with sincere pleasure that we heartily congratulate Sir Francis J. Campbell on being honoured by the King with a Knighthood. Those who are interested in the Blind, have received the news with acclamation, not only because the cause of the Blind has been publicly recognised, but also because the honour has fallen on the right man, viz., on him who has devoted his life to benefit the Blind, and who has done more to raise their status than any living man in the United Kingdom. His work at the Royal Normal College is unique, and those who wish to describe it can point to the College and exclaim, "*Si monumentum quæris, circumspice.*" We, personally, have had the privilege of a close friendship with him for over 27 years, and have learnt much from his enthusiastic zeal, his determination to overcome difficulties, his unfailing courage and energy, and his concentrated power of work. All our readers, we feel sure, will wish Sir Francis and Lady Campbell many years of health and strength to enjoy the well merited honour, and to continue their good work on behalf of the Blind.

It has been arranged to give Sir Francis and Lady Campbell a complimentary Dinner at the Holborn Restaurant,

on some Friday evening in October next, and anyone who wishes to be present at the dinner, and has not received a notice before September 10th, should write to the Hon. Secretaries, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mr. Henry Stainsby, and Mr. Henry J. Wilson, who are making the necessary arrangements. The address to which all communications should be sent is 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W. It is hoped that a well known nobleman will preside at the dinner. Friday has been suggested as the day, so that meetings of certain Committees might be arranged on the afternoon of that day, and on the morning and afternoon of the following Saturday, whilst those coming from a distance are in town.

2. Mr. William Frederic Lawrence, M.A., J.P., of Cowesfield House, Salisbury, and 27, Eaton Square, London, S.W., has been elected a member of the Committee of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, in the room of General Sir George Higginson, G.C.B., who has resigned. Mr. Lawrence was at Eton, and graduated from Christ Church, Oxford. He was called to the bar (Lincoln's Inn) in 1871, and was Member of Parliament for the Abercromby Division of Liverpool, from 1885 to 1906. He unfortunately became blind last year.

3. Mr. Wilfrid Armitage Schofield, B.A., of St. Edmund's Hall, Oxford, and Leeds Clergy School, was ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Southwark, in his Cathedral, on Trinity Sunday, June 6th. It will be remembered that Mr. Schofield received his early education, as a Gardner Scholar, at the Royal Normal College, and passing from there to Oxford, graduated with second class honours in Modern History. He is now appointed Curate to a Church at Wimbledon, and we wish him all success in his noble and sacred profession.

4. Mr. Alfred Chapple has passed the first part of his history tripos at Cambridge. Mr. Chapple is a Gardner scholar, and received his early education at the Royal Normal College for the Blind.

5. The following students have passed the Matriculation Examination of the University of Durham in the Faculty of Music:—From the Royal Normal College, William Laurie, F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M. and Victor Spanner, F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M.; and from Henshaw's Blind Asylum, W. E. Platt, F. W. Andrews, F. Parker, and G. W. Hilditch. The papers were the same as those set for seeing students, and were dictated to the blind candidates, who wrote first the questions and then their answers in Braille type. No time was allowed for their answers beyond that given to the seeing candidates.

6. We are pleased to be able to state that an organ composition entitled, "Meditation," by Mr. F. W. Priest, F.R.C.O., has been purchased by Messrs. Novello & Co. Also that a Harvest Anthem, by Mr. Albert Robbins, A.R.C.O., has been purchased by the Vincent Publishing Co., and is to appear shortly in the *Organist and Choir Master*.

Mr. Priest and Mr. Robbins were Gardner Scholars, and trained at the General Institution for the Blind, Birmingham.

7. By special request, Mr. W. H. Illingworth, the well-known Superintendent of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, has in the press a book entitled, "The History of the Education of the Blind." It is specially intended as a text book for those who desire to prepare for the examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind, but it is also intended to be useful as a book of reference for all those interested in the subject. The price will be 3/6, or by post 3/9, and the book, which is anxiously awaited, will be ready in a few weeks. We hope to give a short review of it in our next number.

8. The second examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind took place on July 6th, 7th and 8th, at the London County Council School, Linden Lodge, Wandsworth Common, and we are pleased to know that thirty-two teachers sat for the examination. We hope to give the results in our next number. It is very satisfactory to know that an intimation has been

received from the Board of Education to the effect that, as the Board have at present under consideration the question of further defining in the next issue of the Regulations for Special Schools the provisions with regard to the recognition of teachers in schools for blind children, they propose to postpone their formal recognition of the examination to be held by the College of Teachers until the new Regulations have been issued. In the meantime they are prepared to approve the names of the examiners appointed for this year, and they have nominated Dr. Eichholz to act as their representative in the capacity of Assessor.

9. The Committee appointed at the Manchester Conference to organise the Conference to be held in 1911, met at 2 p.m., on May 22nd, at the office of Gardner's Trust, when there were present, Miss Wright, Dr. Campbell, Messrs. Frew Bryden, Collingwood, Dixon, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Rev. N. F. McNeile, Messrs. Maddocks, Munby, Pine, Platt, Siddall, Stainsby, Stone, and Wilson (Chairman). Mr. Edward Allen, of the Perkins Institute, Philadelphia, was present by invitation, as a visitor.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

It was reported that on account of illness, Miss Austin regretted her inability to be present.

The Chairman explained that he had received a letter from the Bristol Blind Asylum suggesting that on account of Mr. Kingdon's leaving, and the building of the new school, the Conference in 1911 should be held in some other city instead of Bristol if other arrangements can be made to the satisfaction of the Committee. Under the circumstances, therefore, it was decided to hold the Conference elsewhere, and Belfast, Exeter, Birmingham, and London were suggested. Upon a vote being taken, it was decided, on the motion of Mr. Dixon, and seconded by Rev. St. Clare Hill, to hold the next Conference in Exeter, and Councillor Collingwood having been unanimously elected Hon. Secretary, promised to approach the Committee of the West of England Institution for the Blind on the subject, in

order to obtain their co-operation and support. The principles on which the next Conference should be conducted were discussed, and it was agreed that as far as can be arranged there shall be (*a*) services on the preceding Sunday in all Churches and Chapels with blind Clergymen and blind Organists (*b*) a concert by blind vocalists and instrumentalists with music mainly composed by the Blind (*c*) an exhibition, but no prizes awarded (*d*) stewards appointed to introduce and to specially attend to those present (*e*) one evening devoted to an informal meeting, and one evening to a lecture by a blind man (*f*) Thursday afternoon reserved for a meeting of members only, when the various Committees will be elected and other business transacted.

Mr. Guy Campbell kindly attended, and placed before the Committee a scheme for the formation of a British Physical Recreation Society for the Blind. The discussion thereon was deferred until the next meeting.

A long list of subjects for papers was submitted, and several of them having been deleted, it was agreed to defer until the next meeting the consideration as to which subjects should be accepted, the Committee meanwhile being willing and anxious to receive further suggestions.

10. The second meeting of the Committee appointed by the International Conference, to consider the question of the Prevention of Blindness, was held at the offices of Gardner's Trust, on Saturday, April 24th. Present:—Mr. H. J. Wilson (Chairman), Miss E. Wright, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Dr. Bishop Harman, Dr. Hartley, Mr. Ritchie, and Mr. Collingwood (Hon. Secretary).

Miss Edith Wright reported the result of an interview with Dr. Stephenson, Chairman of the Committee appointed by the British Medical Association, to investigate and report upon this subject, and intimated that the Committee had practically concluded their labours, and that consequently their report would shortly be issued.

She also stated that the National Union of Women Workers had added Prevention of Blindness to the list of subjects to

which their energies were to be directed, and that they had invited her to attend a meeting, shortly to be held, at which Preventable Blindness was to be the leading subject of discussion.

The question of "The Definition and Classification of Blindness," a matter referred to the Committee from the meeting of the representatives of the various District Unions was considered, and after considerable discussion the Committee unanimously agreed that the only actual definition of "blindness" that may be accepted as perfectly correct is, "lack of perception of light"; but for all practical purposes blind persons may be classified as being those who are either (a) Stone-blind, *i.e.*, the individual has no power to see the movement of fingers before the eyes. (b) Partially blind, *i.e.*, in the case of (1) *Children*, those who have not sufficient sight (even with the aid of glasses) to be taught in an ordinary school. (2) *Adults*, those who have not sufficient sight (even with the aid of glasses) to earn a living by ordinary means.

It was recommended that, with a view to obtaining a better classification of "blindness" in the next census, the Registrar-General be requested to adopt the foregoing, or similar definitions.

On the subject of the Prevention of Blindness, the Committee decided to make the following recommendations:—

1. That, in the opinion of this Committee, the adoption by the Public Health Authorities of the Early Notification of Births Act (1907) is *urgent*.
2. That, in the opinion of this Committee, the disease known as "Ophthalmia of the New-Born," should be added to the list of diseases Compulsorily Notifiable under the powers of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act (1889).
3. That, in the opinion of this Committee, more definite teaching should be given to midwives on the seriousness of eye disease in children, &c.

It was further agreed that the question of the publication and distribution of pamphlets or literature dealing with this subject, was a matter that could best be dealt with by the various District Unions, in accordance with local requirements; but the Committee suggest that in all the larger towns the co-operation

of the Health-Visitors should be invited, and also that of the officials of the various Sick Clubs.

It was further suggested that a useful field for the dissemination of such literature was Mothers' Meetings, where also short addresses on the subject might be given from time to time.

The Hon. Secretary was requested to draft a report of the foregoing recommendations, together with a preamble dealing briefly with the subject generally, and that a copy of same (after being approved by the members of the Committee) should be forwarded to the President of the Local Government Board, the Central Midwives Board, the various medical journals, and such of the leading papers as would be willing to furnish space for its publication.

11. A meeting of the Pensions Committee was held at the offices of Gardner's Trust, on Saturday, May 22nd, when there were present, Mr. H. J. Wilson in the Chair, Miss E. F. Massey, Councillor Collingwood, and Mr. W. H. Tate (Hon. Sec.). Mr. H. J. Wilson was appointed Chairman. Letters regretting their inability to attend the meeting, were read from Rev. St. Clare Hill, and Mr. Purse.

The Secretary submitted a summary of the information obtained from the secretaries of various Pension Societies and Trusts, from which it appeared that there were several hundred "approved applicants" upon the waiting lists of the respective charities, for whom as yet no pensions were available. Interesting particulars were given by the Chairman concerning the changes brought about by the operation of the Old Age Pensions Act, and it is anticipated that the co-operation of many of the charities with regard to this Act will, in due time, enable many additional pensions to be granted to those under the age of 70 years.

It was reported that Mr. Stuart Johnson had agreed to bring out a further edition of his book, "Annuities to the Blind." Proposals for the amendments of the Old Age Pensions Act, in the interests of the Blind, submitted to the Committee by the Newcastle Home Teaching Society, and also by the recent Conference of Unions of Societies were carefully considered, and

steps initiated for securing additional information with the view to a consensus of representative opinion in regard thereto.

The meeting was rather a lengthy one, and it was decided to defer other items upon the Agenda, relating to pensions, until the altered conditions, consequent upon the operation of the Old Age Pensions Act, had become somewhat settled, and the results more fully known.

12. The children of the Bradford School for the Blind, at the invitation of the Bradford Cinderella Club, have again spent a very enjoyable fortnight's seaside holiday school, at the Amble Home, Hest Bank, near Lancaster. As in previous years, by the consent of the Education Committee, the Head Teacher (Miss Cox) and her assistants, arranged a series of lessons specially applicable to the condition by which the children were surrounded, and the whole curriculum was carried out with admirable success.

13. The British and Foreign Blind Association have issued, as an advertisement, a capital booklet with several excellent illustrations, entitled, "Light on Dark Paths." It sets forth the objects of the Association, and appeals for assistance to carry on the work, which is developing at a rapid rate, as was anticipated, under Mr. Henry Stainsby, the newly appointed Secretary-General. Already, under his careful and business-like organisation, great improvements in the management of the Association have been effected.

14. The pupils of the Kindergarten Branch School, Harborne, Birmingham, visited Weston-super-Mare for a stay of one week, on April 17th, and had a very enjoyable time. Arrangements were made for a special corridor coach to convey them from Harborne to New Street Station, Birmingham, where it was shunted on to a fast train to Bristol. Everyone with whom they came in contact treated them most kindly, from the guard of the train to the cab-drivers at Weston. Some of the residents of Weston very kindly entertained the children, providing tea for them, and also a concert. Quantities of sweets, fruits, flowers, and chocolates were sent for the thirty-nine children, and one

very kind gentleman gave each child sixpence and a tram ride. One of the remarks which came to the ears of the Superintendent when he went down to see the children was, "What would my mother say if she saw me digging here!" The chief surprise to them was that when digging the sand they discovered water, and also that when the tide came in it, made a noise.

The money required to meet the expenses of the trip was collected by the indefatigable Matron of the Kindergarten School and her friends. The undertaking was a very responsible one, and the Matron and her Staff are to be congratulated on the manner in which they organised and carried out the arrangements. A special point of interest for the Pupils and Staff was a surprise visit paid by the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Arthur L. Lowe, accompanied by his wife and daughter.

15. In our correspondence, we publish a letter about the action of the Great Eastern Railway in regard to blind persons travelling on that line, and therefore, we quote here as given in the *Times* of May 26th, the instructions issued by the Superintendent to all the station-masters: "That no person who is blind, or suffering from any other infirmity, which renders him unable to travel safely, is to be booked, or allowed to enter any of the Company's trains unless accompanied by a suitable guide, or attendant. In the event of this regulation causing any hardship to a person who is not in a position to pay the full fare for an attendant, the matter must be reported to me for my decision as to whether any special arrangement can be made in such cases." We understand, however, that a friendly arrangement can be made with the Company, so that the Blind can travel without a guide.

16. We are pleased to hear that at a meeting held at Bath, on January 21st, a Home Teaching Society for the Blind was started on a firm basis, chiefly owing to the energetic action of the Misses Beavan, Fleetlands, Weston Park, Bath, Miss Cecil A. Beavan being Hon. Secretary. A teacher who has sufficient sight to get about without a guide has been appointed. He is able to speak on his fingers. This will be a great advantage, as in his district there are several blind who are also quite deaf.

17. The Committee of the Bradford Institution has considerably increased the accommodation for adult workers during the past quarter, by taking on lease a large building, five storeys in height, near the Institution. Extensive alterations, at a cost of £300, have been commenced, which, when completed, will enable two of the departments in the present building to be transferred there, and also provide rooms for technical training, physical exercises, &c.

18. The Board of Management of Henshaw's Blind Asylum arranged an attractive and interesting series of functions on May 20th, 21st, and 22nd, in order that the public might become better acquainted with the work of the Institution. There were an exhibition and sale of work, concerts, drill, dancing, and an opportunity for seeing the students at work. A feature of the concerts was the rendering of the overture, "Guillaume Tell," on organ and piano, with realistic effects, on drums and cymbals.

19. Mr. Albert Robbins, A.R.C.O., Shrewley, Warwick, is prepared to copy music into Braille from print at 4d. per sheet; also, music is copied into staff notation from Braille at 4d. to 5d. per page.

20. One of the most practical results of the formation of the Western Counties Union has been the newly awakened interest in the question of Visiting and Home Teaching amongst the Blind in the several counties in that area; an interest which has quickly developed into the formation of a County Home Teaching Society for the Blind in Devon.

The active spirit, and practically the originator of the scheme, has been the Rev. S. F. Harris, Vicar of Cotleigh, Honiton; who, when resident in the North of England, took an active part in the formation of one of the largest and most successful societies in the Lancashire districts, viz., Blackburn.

Mr. Harris, in the earlier part of the year, was requested by Mr. Collingwood (the Hon. Secretary of the Western Counties Union) to visit Bath for the purpose of addressing a meeting convened by the Mayor, with the object of forming a local Home

Teaching Society. The meeting in question was a marked success, and in the course of a few weeks sufficient funds had been raised, and annual subscriptions promised, to warrant the local Committee engaging a blind Visitor, who is now actively engaged in his work.

Emboldened by this success, Mr. Harris decided to turn his attention to the County of Devon, where there is at present but one Home Teaching Society, an off-shoot of the Institution for the Blind, at Exeter. (There was, until the year 1900, an active Society in North Devon, with Barnstaple as its centre, but this was allowed to lapse on the death of the late blind Visitor).

A careful analysis of the Constabulary returns recently furnished to Mr. Collingwood, suggested the following areas, or centres, from which the whole county could be covered: Exeter, Plymouth, Torquay, Okehampton, Barnstaple, Sidmouth, and Tiverton.

The proposal is to awaken sufficient interest in each of these districts to lead to the formation of a local Society, under a local Committee, who shall undertake to be responsible for their own financial requirements.

A Central, or Advisory Committee has been formed, with Mr. Harris as Hon. Secretary, which is at present constituted as follows.—Mr. W. P. Studholme and Rev. R. Jenkins (representing the West of England Institution for the Blind), Miss Karslake and Miss Buckingham (representatives of the Exeter Home Teaching Society), Lady Peek, Mr. Walker King (the blind Parliamentary candidate for the West Division of Somerset, who resides in Exeter), Rev. E. J. Cocks and Mr. T. G. Greek Wills (as representing the Devonport and Plymouth Blind Institutions respectively), and Mr. C. M. Collingwood (Hon. Secretary to the Western Counties Union). It is proposed to add to the foregoing one or more representatives from each of the local Societies, as formed.

The Committees of other District Unions will, we are sure, follow with some interest the progress of this small band of workers. It is to be hoped that their success may be commensurate with their enthusiasm.

INSTITUTIONS.

Brighton. The 16th annual report of the Barclay Home and School for Blind Girls, Wellington Road, Brighton, for the year ended December 31st, 1908, shows that the extensions are completed, and that the Home is now full with 87 inmates (44 under, and 43 above the age of 16). There are 16 looms and 6 knitting machines. The industries carried on are basket-making, knitting, and especially weaving. There is a laundry at the bottom of one of the gardens where all the washing of the Home is carried out, some of it being done by the blind inmates.

Dublin. The report, for the year 1908, of the Richmond National Institution for the Blind, 41, Upper Sackville Street, Dublin, founded in 1810, was presented at a general meeting held on May 3rd. There are 24 inmates (21 men and 3 women) and 39 out-door workers. The sales amounted to £3,755, and £787 were paid in wages to blind outworkers, with a supplement of £350. The chief trade is in baskets, but there is also a considerable amount of work done in upholstery and brushes.

Edinburgh. The 115th annual meeting of the subscribers of the Edinburgh Royal Blind Asylum and School, was held on December 17th. There are 255 blind persons educated, maintained and employed, and in addition 138 out-door beneficiaries received grants amounting in the aggregate to £500. The number resident at West Craigmillar is the same as last year. The children have shown much attention to Nature Study. At Christmas, an Operetta, specially written by Mr. Stone, the Headmaster, was produced at the Institution, and also at Leith, and in the Queen's Hall, Edinburgh. The report of H.M. Inspector refers to the high standard maintained throughout the School, and commends the Headmaster for carefully studying the aptitudes of each pupil, and also Miss Dickson, for the patience and ingenuity shown by her in the very successful tuition of five pupils, who are deaf as well as blind. Fourteen children were presented at the examination of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, all passed, and five obtained honours.

The sales at the Workshop at 58, Nicholson Street, amounted to £18,080, and £2,580 were paid in wages to blind workers, and £3,858 in supplementary allowances.

Exeter. The annual meeting of the West of England Institution for the Blind was held on February 26th, when the 69th annual report for 1908 was presented. Pending the consideration of the erection of a new school, temporary recognition only is given by the Board of Education for the present arrangements. On December 31st there were 29 males, 23 females, and 19 out-workers, making a total of 71 persons in the Institution. Eleven pupils entered for the examination of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, and all were successful—5 obtaining “honours.” The blind candidates securing 45% of “honours,” whilst the sighted claim 16%. The sales amounted to £1,055, and the blind workmen received £396 in wages, and £96 supplemental. All the boots and shoes required in the Institution are made in the workshop in addition to necessary repairs.

Glasgow. (a) The 82nd annual report of the Royal Glasgow Asylum for the Blind, 100, Castle Street, was submitted to the general meeting of subscribers on January 18th, and it stated that 307 blind persons received substantial benefits, and that the sum distributed directly to the adult Blind in the form of wages and allowances amounted to no less than £7,247. Work has been supplied to every child that passed through the school. One of the occupations recently introduced is the manufacture of children’s wooden toys. Two pupils passed the Trinity College examination with honours. H.M. Inspector, in his report, pays a high compliment to Miss Tasker and her staff of teachers, specially referring to the expert knowledge and organising faculty of the headmistress. New elementary and technical class-rooms are much needed, and also a Holiday Home. The collectors of the subscriptions are blind, and have been most successful, having collected the sum of £3,966.

(b) The 49th annual report of the Mission to the Out-Door Blind of Glasgow and the West of Scotland, 221, Buchanan Street, Glasgow, was read at the annual meeting

held on January 27th, and shows the thorough and excellent work which is being carried on under the skill and care of Mr. J. Frew Bryden, the Superintendent. His report for 1908 is full of interesting details of the various branches of the Mission, but, as he says, it is not easy to give a brief account of work which is mainly carried on in a quiet and unobtrusive manner in the homes of the Blind. There are 1,640 blind persons on the roll, who are visited by 6 missionaries, and in the library there are 5,801 volumes, besides magazines. Last year 43 persons were assisted by grants to begin some form of trading on their own account. There is a ladies' auxiliary to the Mission, of which there is also an interesting report.

Liverpool. The 118th annual report, for the year 1908, of the School for the Indigent Blind, Hardman Street, Liverpool, and of the Wavertree Branch School for Children, shows that at the close of the year there were 94 on the register at Hardman Street, and 84 (53 boys and 31 girls) at Wavertree. At the Examination of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, 3 gained honours, and six others passed. The training in shoemaking makes satisfactory progress, and the 1st and 2nd prizes given for bootmaking at the Manchester Conference were gained by two pupils. A bureau has been established at the School for the distribution of tickets amongst the Blind for Concerts and other entertainments. The sales amounted to £1,336.

London. Barclay Workshop for Blind Women, 246, Edgware Road, W. In the 3rd annual report for the year ended March 31st it is stated that there are eight workers, and that the sales amounted to £138. Several new kinds of materials have been made during the year. Two or three more workers are expected shortly.

Manchester. (a) The 69th report of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, for the year 1908, was presented at the annual meeting, held on February 24th. On December 31st there were 114 males and 82 females in the Institution. There was a serious deficiency of £3,631 in the current accounts. Thirty-one acres of land have been purchased at Cheadle, Hulme, where a new

School is about to be erected, with accommodation for 150 children. A technical grant, amounting to £285, was earned for the first time. The sum of £676 was granted to ex-pupils and outside Blind. The sales in the workshops amounted to £7,446, and £2,752 were paid in wages.

(b) The 9th report of the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society, for the year 1908, was presented at the annual meeting, held on February 17th. Reference is made to the opening of the new Home for Women, on October 13th, where there are already 22 inmates. At the Home of Rest, at Southport, 294 people have had happy holidays. Thirteen towns subscribe and borrow books from the Braille library, where there are over 3,000 volumes, and to which 471 books were added last year. There are 185 blind members in the Sick and Benefit Club. The brush workshop, with 5 workmen; woolwork, giving employment to 18 persons, and binding to two men, all paid their way. The Braille industry employed 21 blind persons. The Visiting Branch keeps in touch with the Blind in their homes.

North Stafford. The 6th annual report of the North Staffordshire Workshops for the Blind, Hanley, for the year ended June 30th, 1908, shows steady work. There were 23 males and 8 females on the wage book of the Workshops. The sales amounted to £1,822, and £783 were paid in wages, and £66 supplemental. An investment has been made in a willow-bed, at Darlaston, which seems likely to prove remunerative.

Sheffield. The 30th report of the Sheffield Institution for the Blind, for the year 1908, was approved at the annual meeting held on March 5th. Thirty-two men, and 15 women, are employed at the manufactory, and 12 pupils in the technical classes. A sum of £1,051 was paid in wages, with £159 added as a bonus to the earnings, and £53 in relief, and £125 in pensions. Visits have been made to the Blind in and around Sheffield by the Home Mission. The School has been quite full with 70 children. The sales amounted to £3,750. Six blind persons are comfortably lodged and well looked after in the Overend Cottages for the Blind.

Swansea. The 1st annual report of the Glynn Vivian Home of Rest for the Blind, Caswell Hill, Mumbles, Glamorgan, for the year, 1908, gives an interesting account of the Home, and how it was founded by the munificence of Mr. Glynn Vivian, who not only built and furnished it, but also granted a lease of the land for 999 years, at the nominal yearly rental of 1/-. There is accommodation for 7 men and 7 women, who pay according to their means, but in no case exceeding 5/- a week. Last year there were 21 admitted—15 males and 6 females. (Other reports have unavoidably been crowded out of this number.)

THE UNIONS OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

The North of England Union. Much that has happened in this Union during the last three months will be recorded elsewhere, and also through the Annual Reports read on May 1st at Preston. These are being issued at 1/- each, and will include the papers read at the afternoon Conference, on "The future work of the Union," and may be had from Col. T. R. Jolly, Harris Institute, Preston, or from Miss E. Wright, Northgate, Wakefield.

The following announcement made by the Chairman of Committee, Mr. F. J. Munby, at the Annual Meeting, was received with great satisfaction, viz., that His Grace the Archbishop of York, (the Right Rev. Cosmo Gordon Lang), had graciously accepted the office of President of the North of England Union, as successor to the Right Rev. Dr. Maclagan, the revered first President, who resigned on his removal from the north.

Mr. M. J. Fernandes Ferreira has been elected Hon. Treasurer, as successor to Mr. Gerald Peel.

An Executive, and also a General Committee Meeting were held in Manchester, on April 3rd. Mr. Ferreira attended this meeting, and expressed his willingness to act as Hon. Treasurer.

The Report of the Committee, and also that of the Organising Secretary, were submitted to the meeting and

approved, and it was resolved that the latter be printed for circulation amongst members on the morning of May 1st. It was suggested that some copies should be printed in Braille, and Mr. Ferreira kindly offered to bear the cost of these for any blind persons who wished to have them.

The question of County Sub-Committees was discussed, and then referred to the Annual Meeting, at Preston.

Meetings have been attended by members of the Union at Scarborough, Barnsley, Darlington, Chester, Rochdale, as well as at Preston.

Visits were also paid by the Organising Secretary to Lancaster, and to Bolton, where there is so much real life and enthusiasm in the cause of the Blind under Mrs. A. Greg, Miss Schneider, and the Blind Teacher.

On April 15th, Miss J. Merrivale, from Oxford, prospective Organising Secretary to the Midland Union, visited Miss E. Wright, at Wakefield, for the purpose of seeing the work in the North, and for mutual discussion.

Replies have been received from nearly all of the 50 Chief Constables of Boroughs and Cities to the circular asking for their aid in obtaining a register of the Blind. These have been a great aid in forming a tabulated statement of areas cared for and those unvisited, which Miss E. Wright has published in her Report.

The meeting of the Committee on Preventable Blindness was attended, on April 24th, by three members from the North. Attendance at this meeting in London gave Miss E. Wright the opportunity of getting into touch with the Organising Secretary to the National Union of Women Workers, as the representative from this Union on their Public Health Sectional Committee, the question of Infantile Blindness being brought up that week at one of their meetings.

She had also the advantage of an interview, after some correspondence, with Dr. Sydney Stephenson, Chairman of the Committee on Ophthalmia Neonatorum, of the British Medical Association, and had been able to supply him with information he asked for from the North. His approval of the efforts in the

North for "Prevention" is shown by the Leaflets being quoted in his valuable report on this subject, issued in the British Medical Journal for May 8th, 1909. This may be of great service to all women workers who desire to help in this crusade and in the battle to stamp out this terrible scourge that produces Blindness that may be prevented.

The Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union. A Meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the rooms of Gardner's Trust, 53, Victoria Street, S.W., on Saturday, 3rd April, at 12 noon, when there were present:—

Mr. H. J. Wilson (Chair), Miss Bainbrigge, Miss Taylor, Dr. Campbell, Mr. Lempriere, and Mr. Guy Campbell.

Regrets for inability to attend the meeting were reported on behalf of Mrs. Inglis, Miss Moon, Sir John Brickwood, and the Rev. St. Clare Hill.

An enlarged table of classification of schools, workshops, &c., was presented, and it was agreed that the name of the Hon. Secretary, and chief officials of each Institution and Society mentioned in the table should be given.

Proofs of the Annual Report were submitted, and it was agreed that the motto "Domine dirige nos" should be adopted by the Union.

Mr. Wilson, Miss Taylor, and Mr. Guy Campbell were unanimously elected to represent the Union, on the Union of Unions.

It was reported that 8,000 copies of the leaflets on the "Prevention of Blindness," as circulated with the annual reports of the Leatherhead School for the Blind, had been printed, and were ready for distribution.

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the rooms of the Gardner's Trust, 53, Victoria Street, S.W., on Saturday, June 5th, at 12 noon, when there were present:—Mr. H. J. Wilson (Chair), Miss Bainbrigge, Miss Moon, Miss Taylor, Sir John Brickwood, Dr. Campbell, Mr. Stuart Johnson, Mr. Lempriere, and Mr. Guy Campbell.

Regrets for inability to attend the meeting were received from Mrs. Inglis and the Rev. St. Clare Hill.

It was decided to discuss at the next meeting the advisability of reducing the amount of subscription from Societies joining the Union. It was agreed that copies of the report with covering letters should be sent to (a) all the societies which have not yet joined: (b) school attendance officers in the largest towns, and (c) the principal clergy and nonconformist ministers in the district. It was reported that the Duke of Norfolk had kindly consented to become a Vice-President. It was agreed to elect on the Council the Rev. Arthur Taylor, Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and Miss Beasley, Hon. Secretary of the L.C.C. After Care Committee. A scheme for working the County of Essex was discussed, and Mr. Offord, Teacher of the Colchester Home Teaching Society, kindly attended and gave most useful and valuable information about the Blind in Essex.

A small sub-committee was appointed to find a suitable Organizing Secretary for the Union.

The Western Counties Union. A meeting of the Executive Committee of this Union was held at the Bristol Asylum for the Blind, on April 13th, Dr. Richardson Cross presiding. There were also present, Mrs. Sewell, Miss Smith, Sir Matthew Dodsworth, General Swanson, Captain Metcalfe, and Mr. Collingwood.

The officers of the Union, a matter which had hitherto been allowed to remain in abeyance, were elected as follows:—Chairman of Committee, Dr. Richardson Cross; Vice-Chairman, Capt. H. G. Metcalfe (Chief Constable of Somerset); Hon. Treasurer, Sir' Matthew Dodsworth; Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. M. Collingwood. The Rev. S. F. Harris (of Honiton), was co-opted as a member of the Executive Committee.

It was decided that the Lord Lieutenants of the several Counties within the area of the Union should be requested to accept the office of Vice-Presidents of the Union.

The Committee revised the Constitution of the Union, and unanimously agreed that the following matters were to be regarded as those upon which the Executive Committee, and the members generally, should concentrate their attention.

(1) The Prevention of Blindness in Infancy. (2) The admission of blind Children to Existing Institutions. (3) The After-Care of Pupils leaving Institutions. (4) The Employment of blind men and women. (5) The Care of the sick, aged, and helpless. (6) The Visitation of the Blind in their own Homes, and in Public Institutions. (7) The formation of Home Teaching Societies, where such may be required. (8) Complete Registration of the Blind in each County and Borough.

The Hon. Secretary reported that he had obtained complete returns of the blind residents in five out of the six counties within the district area, and from the whole of the boroughs, with one exception, and that the returns had been analysed, as regards age, and divided into five sections, as follows: Under 16. 16—21, 21—40, 40—70, and over 70. A further, and more complete analysis, is now being made.

Captain Metcalfe (Vice-Chairman), Mr. W. H. Greek Wills (Plymouth), and Mr. C. M. Collingwood, were appointed as delegates to attend the meetings of the Union of Unions. Several other matters were dealt with.

The North-West Union. A very successful meeting was held at Shrewsbury, on May 13th, when the following attended:—Archdeacon Barber, Miss Margaret Comber (Hon. Secretary), Miss E. Comber, Miss H. Jocelyn Ffoulkes (Chester Branch), Mrs. Marples and Mr. W. Horlick (Birkenhead), Miss C. Smale (Macclesfield), Miss Griffith (North Wales), Mr. and Mrs. H. Byolin (Shropshire). Archdeacon Barber presided, and in the course of the proceedings announced that the Duke of Westminster had kindly consented to become the President of the North West Union, and that the Bishops of St. Asaph, Bangor, and Chester would be Vice-Presidents. Three delegates were elected to attend the meetings of the Union of Unions, viz., Archdeacon Barber, Miss Margaret Comber, and Miss Griffith. It was arranged that the annual meeting of the Union should be held in Bangor, in October, on the same day as the annual meeting of the North Wales Home Teaching Society for the Blind. Various other matters were discussed, including an

arrangement for the interchange of library books, as a preliminary to a circulating library, boundary settlements, finance, &c. At the conclusion of the meeting, tea was kindly provided by Mr. and Mrs. Byolin.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NORTH OF ENGLAND UNION OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

The Third Annual Meeting and Conference was held in Preston, on Saturday, 1st May, 1909, and was in every way an unqualified success. Lord Shuttleworth, the Lord Lieutenant of the County, had undertaken to preside, but owing to indisposition he was unable to be present. He forwarded a communication expressing his regret at being absent and wished the Union every success.

The Annual Meeting was held in the morning at the Harris Free Library and Museum, Sir William Ascroft, President of the Harris Trust and Chairman of the Preston Higher Education Committee, presiding. He was supported by the Right Worshipful the Mayor, The Rev. Canon H. S. Butler, Vicar of Preston, Mr. F. J. Munby (York), Miss Isabel M. Heywood (Manchester), Miss Edith Wright (Wakefield), Mr. M. J. F. Ferreira (Manchester), Mr. John Booth, Chairman of the Preston Homes, Mr. J. R. Burne (Manchester), Dr. Bennett (Blackpool), Mr. G. Buchanan (Oldham), Mrs. E. Cooper and Mr. E. Coward (Blackburn), Mr. A. A. Certmell (Preston), Mr. H. C. Derwent (Bradford), Mr. and Mrs. Day (Blackburn), Mr. M. B. Edwards (Blackpool), Rev. T. R. Finch (Penwortham), Miss Field (Oldham), Mrs. Arthur Greg (Bolton), Mr. William Hill (Carlisle), Miss Haslam (Ashton), Mr. Hodgson (Halifax), Mr. J. H. Heatley (Blackburn), Mr. J. Haworth (Manchester), Dr. Hartley (Leeds), Miss Halliday (Lady Matron, Preston), Mr. J. Jones (Carlisle), Mrs. E. Jones (Burnley), Mr. W. H. Illingworth (Manchester) Mrs. H. Bazet Jones (Broughton), Mrs. Jolly

(Fulwood), Miss Lamonley (Penrith), Mr. J. A. Law (Rossendale), Miss Lees (Oldham), Mr. W. H. Linell (Preston) Mr. J. B. Meeson (Leeds), Miss Nanson (Penrith), Mr. A. B. Norwood (York), Mr. J. Proffitt (Goosnargh), Mr. H. Plummer (Manchester), Mr. M. Priestley (Bradford), Miss Rayner (Stockport), Mr. J. Royle, Mrs. Redford and Mr. Ritchie (Manchester), Mr. W. Robertson (Newcastle), Miss A. Smith (Penrith), Mr. T. Scholfield (Preston), Mr. W. Stevenson (Accrington), Mr. and Mrs. Siddall (Rochdale), Mr. A. E. Stevens (Manchester), Miss Beatrice Taylor (Sunbeam Mission, London), Mr. J. Townson (Accrington), Mr. J. H. Toulmin (Preston), Mr. T. Taylor (Liverpool), Mr. Jas. Turner (Preston), Mr. W. H. Tate (Bradford), Mrs. Varley (Colne), Mr. T. Woolley (Preston), Mr. A. H. Whipple (Blackburn), Mr. T. W. Warner (Bradford), Lieut.-Col. Jolly, Secretary to the local arrangements, and many others.

After a prayer by the Vicar of Preston, the Chairman stated that letters of apology for non-attendance had been received from Sir Hugh Bell and Lord Nunburnholme, and the Local Secretary read a letter from Mr. H. J. Wilson, of London, Chairman of the Metropolitan Union, expressing his regret that many pressing engagements prevented him from being present. He expressed every good wish for a most successful meeting, and for the furtherance of the good cause. He felt convinced that the practical work of the Union would be an inestimable boon to the Blind in the near future.

The Chairman offered those present a hearty welcome to Preston. The interest of the Blind had always had the active sympathy of Preston, and that was indicated by the form of management of the very valuable Institution they would have the opportunity of seeing that afternoon. This terrible affliction of blindness could not fail to excite the sympathy of all right-thinking people. The Blind were debarred from certain pleasures of life, especially at this time of the year, when the flowers were bursting into beauty. Those present could hardly realise what it would be if they could not see them. He observed that it was a great shame that so many cases of blindness were due to neglect in infancy. The report of the Royal

Commission for the Blind stated that there were 7,000 persons whose blindness was attributed to the neglect of mothers or nurses, whilst a leaflet of Gardner's Trust alleged that 30 per cent. of the children who were found in the schools for the Blind were those whose blindness had been caused in this way.

This union, which has for one of its objects the prevention of that awful affliction, was deserving of all support; in fact, he did not know of any more humane cause to which people could devote their energies, care and knowledge, than the prevention and amelioration of that terrible affliction.

Mr. F. J. Munby (Chairman of the Committee of the Union) read the report of the Committee. It recommended the formation of visiting societies in areas not allocated to any institution or existing society, and added that every blind man, woman, or child being already registered, it should be their endeavour to be able, before the International Conference to be held in 1911, to show that within his or her reach is an institution or other agency, prepared to supply a personal friend to that blind person.

Miss Wright (Organising Secretary to the Union) then submitted her Annual Report, which is exceedingly interesting and can be obtained from her, price 1/-.

Miss Heywood presented a satisfactory Balance Sheet and on the proposition of Mr. Munby, seconded by Mr. John Booth, Chairman of the Preston Homes, the Report and Balance Sheet were unanimously approved.

In the afternoon the conference was continued at the Homes for the Blind, Fulwood, when an interesting paper on "The Future Work of the Union" was read by Mr. A. B. Norwood, M.A., of the Yorkshire School for the Blind, York. His Worship the Mayor presided, and there was a full attendance of delegates.

Mr. Norwood said the beginning of the last century might be said to have seen the inception of the movement in the United Kingdom for founding special schools and workshops for educating, training and employing the Blind, and the movement then begun has gradually grown until at the present

time there are in England and Wales alone some 32 residential Schools, 15 Council Schools for day scholars, 46 Workshops and 17 Homes, in addition to a large number of home teaching, visiting, pension, publication and other societies for the Blind. For the most part these organisations had worked, as indeed they had their origin, quite independently of one another, attending so far as they were able to the Blind of their own particular districts, and not considering it their business to extend their work beyond the limits of their own borders. The commencement of the present century will always be memorable, so far as the work for the Blind is concerned, by reason of the remarkable movement in the direction of union and systematic co-operation of the existing agencies for the Blind. This marvellous movement had set up the framework of a system under which it is possible to work onward and upward to the great ideal of ensuring proper care for every blind person in the land.

They were ready for the forward movement, and each district must try and solve known difficulties in the way it thought most effective. They must complete the system of mapping out their area into spheres of influence to be adopted by one or other of the agencies now existing, and form fresh agencies for districts not provided for. This was a work for the Union in its corporate capacity.

Mr. Norwood directed attention to the need of earnest efforts for the prevention of blindness in infancy. There were 3,000 blind people in the six northern counties whose loss of sight was due to ignorance and neglect, and he held that preventable blindness should no longer be considered merely culpable, but treated as criminal. He urged that the Union should see to the case of blind children of school age who were not attending school, and that they should urge local education authorities to enforce the powers they had to provide technical training for blind young people from the ages of 16 to 21.

The State, by the education facilities of the past few years, had created an ever-growing army of trained blind workers and had, up to the present, left the question of their after-care to

voluntary agencies, which, as at present constituted, were inadequate to find the needed employment. The future of the Union would turn upon the way in which this great responsibility was discharged. A bill to provide technical employment for the Blind was being promoted by the National Employment Committee of the International Conference. In the bill, power was sought to authorise and require County Councils and Borough Councils to make suitable provision for the employment of the Blind at such trades as they are able to follow, and for this purpose, where necessary, to establish, equip and maintain workshops. More employment could be given in existing institutions if there was a greater demand for the articles made by the Blind, if people would see that some of the equipment of the household was made by the Blind. Municipalities could do more towards finding employment for the Blind.

A great work could be done in the care of the sick, the aged, and the helpless, and the visitation of the Blind in their own homes. They were hoping that the days of the Blind in the workhouse were numbered, and the sooner the better. In conclusion, Mr. Norwood urged a measure of devolution in the Union work as essential to efficiency. They must still remain the Union of the six northern counties for all purposes of general policy affecting the whole of their area, but they would need sub-committees to carry out the detailed work in the separate counties.

Mr. W. H. Illingworth opened the discussion. He said the home employment idea, particularly for men, was a ghastly failure, a waste of public money, providing a subterfuge for begging. People must not be asked to buy goods made by the Blind because they were made by the Blind. The element of charity should be kept distinct from the commercial life and work of the Blind. Let the public have reason to buy because they are getting as good value for their money as they would get elsewhere. The British public did not go shopping to indulge charitable instincts. The public would come to their help with generous gifts for their deserving charitable objects. The failure to draw a distinct line of demarcation between the commercial

and charitable departments had much to answer for. The home employment of trained blind women would be aided by the system, common in America, of well-to-do girls making the acquaintance of some girl of similar age, in poor circumstances, to whom she might be a kind of guardian angel, and help to get her customers. The strength of the Union lay in harmony, and the absence of disintegrating jealousies. He proposed "that each of the counties in the Northern Union should proceed to the formation of county associations, consisting of representatives from every institution and society for the Blind in that county, for the purpose of carrying out effectively the care of the Blind in accordance with the constitution of the Northern Union."

Mr. Robertson (Newcastle-on-Tyne) dealing with the trade drawbacks connected with the industries of the Blind, showed that they could not compete with the wretched prices asked for similar goods made in gaols by prison labour.

Mr. J. B. Meeson (Leeds) seconded the resolution of Mr. Illingworth, and dealing with prison made goods said they ought to make representation to the Government to put the prisoners on some other form of labour which would not compete with that of the sightless. The brushmakers had done that successfully. He thought the Town Councils in some places had not done their duty in helping the Blind by their contracts.

Mr. Day (Blackburn) feared the suggested policy of decentralisation might lead to dissolution.

Mr. T. Warner (Bradford) argued that blind children should have a better start in life. The adult working Blind engaged in the Institutions could not, he knew, live on the wages paid. Just as they asked the State to educate the child so they ought to ask the State to see that employment should be found for him.

Mr. Scholfield (Preston) admired both the paper of Mr. Norwood and the comments of Mr. Illingworth. He urged the co-operation of Lancashire organisations with a centre, say at Oldham, so that the requirements for industry could be bought in bulk at cheaper price, and that business might be developed by centrality of organisation. So great was the demand for skips that he knew workshops for the Blind in Lancashire that had employed 20 sighted men.

Mr. M. Priestley (Bradford) expressed the opinion that sooner or later the State would have to render assistance.

Miss Wright said the future work of the Union would lie largely in voluntary workers visiting the Blind in their scattered homes. She hoped the problem of finding employment for the trained children would be solved.

The Mayor of Preston gave a short address, and showed that the Blind were handicapped because they did not take the amount of physical exercise they should, to enable them to compete with people outside.

After further discussion the motion was carried, and the conference ended with votes of thanks to the Mayor, to Mr. Norwood for his paper, and to Colonel Jolly and Miss Halliday, the Lady Matron at the Fulwood Homes, for their arrangements in connection with the Annual Meeting and the Conference.

During the past three years the Union has made good progress, and, owing to the energetic work of Miss Wright, Miss Heywood, Mr. Munby and many others, has from an excellent foundation built up a structure of considerable magnitude.

Great care should be taken if it is decided to form further numerous sub-divisions of the Union's work, as there is always a certain amount of danger in devolution, and it is to be hoped that if the County Sub-Committees are elected they will work with harmony with the mother Union, and that good results may ensue.

T. R. JOLLY, *Secretary,*
Homes for the Blind for North East
Lancashire.

Preston, 19th June, 1909.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL NORMAL COLLEGE.

By kind permission of His Grace the Duke of Westminster, the Annual Meeting of the Royal Normal College was held at Grosvenor House, on April 28th. The Hon. W. F. D. Smith presided, and the speakers were Lady O'Hagan, Lady St. Davids,

Lord Kinnaird, Surgeon General Evatt, Major Coates, M.P., and Mr. George Rose. The votes of thanks were moved by Lord Selby, Mr. W. S. Seton-Karr, Canon Bell, and Colonel F. Campbell.

The Chairman in his opening remarks said, that anybody who has read the report for the year just past, will have realised very fully that the College is carrying on its work under the direction of Dr. Campbell in a manner more efficient, if possible, than it has done during the last 37 years of its existence. Nobody who has read that report can fail to be struck by the fact that the all-pervading object of the training which is given to the young people who enter the College is to fit them for the work which they will enter upon in after life. It may be truly said that the great success of the College has been due to the fact that it has been able to turn out effective and efficient men and women who are able to render services as valuable and as accurately performed as their more fortunate brethren who are possessed with the sense of sight. The results are of infinitely more value than any favourable report of examining Inspectors, for there is set out in the annual report a list of those past students of the College all over the world, in our Colonies, and in foreign countries, who are earning for themselves an ample livelihood, who are spreading the knowledge of the work which the College has done here in England, and who are showing to the whole world that the blind man or woman is well capable of earning his or her own living.

It may be fairly said that the College has a very strong claim both upon public and private generosity. The argument of private generosity need hardly be mentioned, because it must be patent to everybody who takes an interest in blind people. But it does seem that Parliament and local bodies may well help with this Institution, because it would be difficult to calculate how much has been saved this country, especially the local bodies of the country, by the fact that during the last 37 years or more, during which the Institution has been in existence, it has saved from poverty a vast number of blind people who undoubtedly, if they had not been trained within its walls, would have had to go eventually to the local body in whose district they live for

support. It is hoped that it may be possible to persuade the Board of Education to increase its grant in years to come.

The LADY O'HAGAN said, in other countries the care of the Blind is not left so much to private and personal enterprise, but is made a matter of State-support and a matter of national duty.

The College is a national asset because, as the Chairman has said, there is in that College a nucleus of valuable members of any community instead of being an assemblage of people who would perhaps be hopeless and helpless, thrown upon the charity of those who have not in their hearts to recognise what is their duty, and what is the right these people have to our support and sympathy.

LORD KINNAIRD said, I take it that I have been asked to speak because I have the honour to be one of the Trustees of the Henry Gardner Charity for the Blind, and because the mention of that munificent donor and great benefactor of the Blind, may be a stimulus to similar efforts to give. He left £300,000, of which the interest has to be spent for the welfare of the Blind in instruction in music, and in trades, in pensions, and in other ways. As Trustees, we had to see where the money could be best spent, so as to carry out the liberal donor's wishes, and how we should be able to help the Blind in the best way. Well, we have found from the first that we had to use the Royal Normal College to do one-third of our work, namely, with reference to the teaching of music. I assure you that year after year we have found the general administration of the College to be admirable; and we marvel, as we see the results which come from the amount we give, and as we follow the history of the boys and girls as they go out into life.

Then, may I finally refer to two points with reference to what the pupils do in after life. They not only keep themselves, but they carry out the lessons of Dr. Campbell, and those who give the religious teaching in the College, for there is thorough religious teaching on the lines which those who send them desire. Whatever they wish is given to them, but they must have some religious instruction, and that will appeal to many of those who believe that religion must be the basis on which character is formed. Showing how they carry out the principles in after life,

I read in the report what Mr. P. E. Layton, assisted by other active blind men of Montreal, has recently done there. Again, in Western Turkey, the report tells us how, upon her return to Armenia in 1902, Miss Mary Harootounian, assisted by Miss Shattuck, an American Missionary, established a school for the Blind at Urfa. Those are most important centres, and we find blind people there carrying on their good work.

Looking at the matter as a business man, the work is done in a way which commends itself to those of us who have to spend Trust funds. The work, tested by outside examiners, is thoroughly efficient. If Mr. Gardner had been able to see what I have seen of the work of this Institution, he would have agreed that one of the best ways we could spend his money for the welfare of the Blind would be in assisting this College.

Surgeon-General G. J. H. EVATT, M.D., R.A.M.C., said, we want in every establishment which deals with the Blind, a varied curriculum and able teachers. In my own official life we find scientific people and sympathetic people, but we want that happy blending of science and sympathy which I will say can be seen in a most marked degree in the Normal College. Nobody can go to it without seeing that there is science, only you have an exceedingly happy blending of science and sympathy, and you see that an enormous number of things have produced the confidence which is usually one of the things most lacking in those who suffer from blindness. It takes time and labour, and the whole of the staff have given time and energy to produce this national gain. Humanity advances but slowly in England. Little or no care was taken of our wounded in the old wars; to-day such a thing would never be stood by the nation. Well then, these blind people are the wounded in the great warfare of natural life.

A part song, "The Water Lily," was then sung by students of the College.

THE LADY ST. DAVIDS said, this generation, we are glad to know, has been distinguished by the greater care of those who have been wounded in life's battles. And it is due to what the Blind have done themselves for one another that so much has been achieved for them. The great blind men and women have

shown us that they had the vision splendid of what human life may be, blest by perseverance and faith.

Let us remember this, that pity which gives no help makes people weak, the pity that gives help makes people strong. Elizabeth Gilbert, that wonderful worker for the Blind cause, enquired of every blind beggar she met whether they would rather beg or work, and nearly everyone replied, "we would rather work." She gave her life to them, and when her friends said, "You will work yourself to death," she replied, "No, I am working myself to life."

MR. GEORGE ROSE said, no one can employ the Blind in any capacity if they are not competent, and we do not ask that they should be accorded any favour, but that they should be taken on their own merits.

Pianoforte tuning requires special aptitude, and the precision, patience and memory which the College pupils are taught, has much to do with their success in this particular line. In every occupation sound training is absolutely necessary, but no one can succeed in life without opportunity, and what we want particularly is openings for our pupils. We want musical publishers and manufacturers to give our young men a chance. We have faith in our blind pupils. We know they can do excellent work, and that they have the courage to overcome every difficulty to do it.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of THE BLIND.

53, St. Helen's Street, Ipswich,
June 12th, 1909.

BLIND TRAVELLERS ON THE G.E.R.

Dear Sir,

May I ask for space in THE BLIND to call attention to the new regulation forbidding the issue of tickets to blind persons unaccompanied by responsible guides? This must not be allowed to pass unchallenged, and indeed, can only be regarded as a practical call to arms, to which all who value their liberty should not be slow to respond. Who would employ a blind tuner in face of this restriction, or where is the chance of successfully canvassing for country orders if one cannot make his

visits unattended? Moreover, the contagion may spread, the Directors of other large Companies, perhaps, will follow suit, and then much of the available employment for the Blind, now sufficiently scarce, must quickly fall into the hands of our seeing competitors.

The situation is in truth grave, but may easily become even more so; hence the action of the Company must not be taken lying down. I, myself, have already written to the Superintendent of the Line, and others who travel frequently for business purposes are advised to lose no time in lodging a complaint with the Directors; our efforts, however, must not be desultory and disunited. May we not hope for the hearty co-operation of the many different societies whose object it is to promote the welfare of the Blind in every conceivable way? The cause is a good one, our very freedom is at stake, and all should combine, sparing no pains and leaving nothing untried to secure a triumphant issue.

Doubtless the Company has a perfect legal right to refuse incompetent travellers; but, are we to be ruled out as hopelessly incapable, or compelled to provide luxuries in the shape of guides for which we have no need? To the truly self-reliant, blindness has never spelt incompetency in any shape or form; in the matter of travel, would it be held to do so in a Court of Law? Here is a question, which, so far as I know, has never yet been properly tested. Again, has the Home Secretary or President of the Board of Trade any jurisdiction where a Railway Company is concerned? If so, might not either or both be asked to intervene? In any case, the Blind must resolve to die hard, and should be backed in the struggle, by all the resources within the command of those whose business it is to safeguard our interests, and keep an ever watchful eye in case of their being assailed.

Few, if any, would object to sign a declaration relieving the Company of all liability, and affirming that we travel by special permission entirely at our own risk. Should not this be sufficient? and cannot negotiations be forthwith set on foot with a view to arranging the difficulty on the basis of some such agreement?

Yours faithfully,

LANCELOT H. ASHFORD.

The Blind.

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OCTOBER 20TH, 1909.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before December 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. There will be a sad blank in the life of many a blind man and woman, and even many of the blind children will be conscious of loss, at the news of the passing away, in the prime of life, of a lady whose great joy it was to make others happy—particularly those, who, being blind, had to face life's battle with poverty under special difficulties.

The many acts of loving-kindness showered by her on a very large number of the Blind will be little spoken of or known about, for she sheltered her beautiful deeds by a quiet reticence of great rarity, as only those who knew her well could testify; and even when travelling about for what people call pleasure, she "went about doing good."

Yes, it will come as a sorrow to many to hear that our friend, Miss Edith R. Lord has been taken from us.

2. Mr. Kenneth Macartney, formerly student at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, Worcester, and of Queen's College, Oxford, graduated in July with Second Class Honours in English Language and Literature. He held a Gardner Trust scholarship at Oxford, and also the George Barker Memorial scholarship. Mr. Macartney has been

appointed by the Commissioners, Assistant Lecturer in English Literature, in the Queen's University of Belfast, and we heartily congratulate him on obtaining this important post so soon after taking his degree.

3. Mr. Christian F. Waudby has succeeded in obtaining the "Newcastle-McKerrow" Scholarship, of £60 a year, tenable for three years in residence at an English University, a scholarship of £30 a year from the Worcestershire County Council, and also the George Barker Memorial Scholarship, value £50 a year, and tenable for four years at Queen's College, Oxford. The £60 scholarship is the blue ribbon of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Waudby held a Gardner Scholarship for seven years at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, Worcester, and was the first blind boy to enter for, and obtain, the Certificate of the Oxford and Cambridge Joint Board Examinations. We heartily congratulate Mr. Waudby on his hitherto brilliantly successful career, which augurs well for further successes at the University, and for a useful life afterwards.

4. Mr. Edward Lloyd, a former student of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, Worcester, and a non-collegiate of Oxford, has graduated with Second Class Honours in Divinity.

5. Mr. A. M. Smith, formerly of the Royal Normal College, and of St. Edmund's Hall Oxford, graduated last July with a second class in Law.

6. Percy Way, a former student of the Royal Normal College, and William Laurie and Victor Spanner, present students and Gardner scholars, passed the first examination in the degree of Bachelor of Music, at Durham, on September 23rd, and Alfred Thompson, a Gardner scholar at the Royal Normal College, passed the examination for the A.R.C.O. in July last.

7. In consequences of difficulties, which recently reached rather an acute stage, in regard to the ordination of blind men, the whole subject has been most carefully considered and dis-

cussed for some time by the Committee of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, after their having sought and received valuable advice from many sources. The Committee have now unanimously resolved, after consultation with the highest Ecclesiastical Authority, that no application for a Gardner Scholarship tenable at any one of the Universities, from a blind man, a candidate for Holy Orders, be entertained henceforth unless (1) he can give proof that he possesses such exceptionally high intellectual qualifications as to overcome the objection which puts him at so grave a disadvantage; (2) he has sufficient private means to prevent him from being wholly dependent on his stipend as a curate: (3) he has reason to expect that a Bishop to be named and specified, will be prepared to ordain him. It is also desirable that applicants should be fluent readers of Braille type, and not of a nervous or excitable temperament.

8. In the notice of the Rev. W. A. Schofield, B.A., in paragraph 3 of our last number we omitted to state that Mr. Schofield was a Fawcett Memorial Scholar. The present holder of the scholarship is Mr. William Henry Jackson, of Wadham College, Oxford.

9. The complimentary dinner to Sir Francis and Lady Campbell, will be held on Friday, October 22nd, at 7.30 p.m., at the Holborn Restaurant, but the Rt. Hon. Viscount Selby is unfortunately ill and unable to preside. The toasts will be:—1. The King, and 2. The Queen, and the other members of the Royal Family, proposed by the Chairman; 3. Sir Francis and Lady Campbell, proposed by Sir William Mather, and seconded by Mr. Henry J. Wilson. Sir. F. Campbell will then reply. A vote of thanks to the Chairman will be moved by the Rev. St. Clare Hill, and seconded by Mr. Henry Stainsby. Congratulations from distant parts will be read. The price of the dinner will be 7/6 each, which should be sent to Mr. Wilson, 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W. No application for a ticket can be received after 12 noon on Thursday, 21st inst. Ladies are invited to attend, as Lady Campbell will be present. From all appearances, on going to press, the dinner is likely to be very

successful and representative of the various Institutions for the Blind. We hope to give a full account of it in our next number.

10. Friday and Saturday, October 22nd and 23rd, will be very busy days for some of us. In the afternoon of the former day there will be a meeting of the National Employment Committee, and at 7 p.m. on that day will be given the complimentary dinner to Sir F. and Lady Campbell, at the Holborn Restaurant. On Saturday, 10 a.m., there is a meeting of the Executive Committee of the College of Teachers of the Blind, and at 12 noon, of the General Council of the College. At 2.15 p.m., a meeting of the Union of Unions, i.e., elected representatives from the Seven Unions, and at 5 p.m., a meeting of the Conference (1911) Committee.

11. Miss Moon, of 104, Queen's Road, Brighton, and daughter of the late Dr. Moon, the inventor of the type bearing his name, had another operation for cataract on September 8th, and we are pleased to be able to announce that the oculist is quite satisfied with the result, and that Miss Moon is rapidly recovering.

12. Miss I. M. Heywood, of Manchester, so well known for her philanthropy and earnest desire to alleviate the condition of the Blind, has in the press a booklet entitled "On behalf of the Blind." It is written for the purpose of giving hints to would-be workers in the cause of this afflicted class in connection with the seven Unions of Agencies for the Blind in England and Wales. We have been privileged to read the book in manuscript, and we believe that it will be found a very useful guide to those who are anxious to give a portion of their time in personal service on behalf of the Blind. As Miss Heywood well says, "it is the personal touch that is needed." The price of the book is 6d.; and 7d. post free; or 4/3 per dozen, post free.

13. The names of the successful Candidates, and the subjects in which they have taken honours in the examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind, held in July last, are as follows:—*Bartlett, Miss C. E., Honours in Arithmetic and

Practical Teaching; Bell, Miss F., Honours in Theoretical Braille: *Boyland, Miss F., Honours in Arithmetic; Cash, Mr. H.; Cowan, Mr. A. A., Honours in Theoretical Braille, Arithmetic and Practical Teaching; Emmott, Miss H. E., Honours in Practical Braille, Arithmetic, Practical Teaching and Manual Work; *Fitzsimmons, Miss E., Honours in Theoretical Braille, Arithmetic and Practical Teaching; Gray, Mr. P., Honours in Practical Braille, Arithmetic and Typewriting; Illingworth, Mr. J. S., Honours in Theoretical Braille and History of the Education of the Blind; Jones, Miss E. M. J., Honours in Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille and Braille Music; *Laycock, Miss A. E., Honours in Arithmetic; Lilley, Miss A. J., Honours in Practical Braille, Arithmetic and Practical Teaching; Morley, Miss E. E., Honours in Theoretical Braille, Arithmetic and Recreation; Robinson, Mr. S., Honours in Arithmetic; Stiles, Miss F. F., Honours in Practical Braille and Arithmetic; *Walden, Mr. H. G., Honours in Theoretical Braille Arithmetic and Moon's System; *Warburton, Miss E. B.; *Williams, Miss E. M., Honours in Practical Braille and Arithmetic; Wright, Miss D. A., Honours in Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Arithmetic and Practical Teaching.

Thirty-two Candidates presented themselves for examination and of these 19 passed, 11 failed and 2 withdrew.

A letter, dated September 24th, has been received by the Registrar of the College of Teachers of the Blind, in which it is stated that the Board of Education approve the awards made by the College of Teachers of the Blind as a result of the examination held in July, 1909, and they are prepared to recognise candidates who were successful at the examination, for the purpose of Article 16 (a) (iii.), and Article 16 (d) (ii.) of the Regulations applicable to Schools for Blind, Deaf, Defective, and Epileptic Children.

*Candidates marked thus sat at the 1908 as well as the 1909 Examinations.

14. On August 4th we were favoured with a visit from M. Perouze, a teacher at the Institution for the Young Blind at Paris, who had come to England at the request of the secretary of the Association Valentin Haüy, to visit the chief Workshops

for the Blind in England and Scotland and to make a report on the industrial employment of the Blind. It was with much pleasure that we introduced M. Perouze to several of the managers of Workshops, and we trust that he may have been interested in his visits. M. Perouze is totally blind and is unable to speak English, but he brought an interpreter with him from Paris. He is much interested in all industries for the Blind, and is most anxious to add to their number for the benefit of the Blind in France.

15. The annual speech day and prize giving of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, Worcester, was held on July 15th, when Lord Cobham presided. The proceedings opened with an organ recital by Mr. Wolstenholme, M.B., an ex-pupil, who accompanied on the organ the re-union and breaking-up songs, which were both written by the Principal. Mr. C. F. Waudby, to whom we refer in a special paragraph in this number, recited a passage from Quintilian on "The Duties of Schoolmasters"; two of the students played on the violin and pianoforte respectively; all the students took part in an amusing parliamentary debate on the "School Discipline Bill." Lord Cobham in his opening address drew attention to the special advantages of the College and to Mr. Stainsby's recent report on the arrangements for physical exercises which showed that the physique of the boys had greatly improved during the last two or three years. Canon Wilson explained that there was no examiner's report to read because the Governors considered that an inspection of the intellectual work of the College was unnecessary this year. The headmaster referred to the successes obtained by the college students, past and present, and after a few words from Mr. W. H. Dixon, a vote of thanks to the chairman was moved by the Rev. H. J. R. Marston, seconded by the Rev. N. F. McNeile, and carried. There was a large reunion of former pupils, and many parents and friends attended on this interesting occasion.

16. The pupils at the School for the Indigent Blind, Leatherhead, gave a very successful concert on July 16th, when

there was a large and influential audience present to enjoy the high standard of the music, consisting of organ and pianoforte solos, part-songs, glees, &c. The part-songs, "Spring Showers" for male voices, and "Come Sister, Come," for female voices, were exceptionally well rendered, and with marked precision. The programme concluded with "The Pied Piper of Hamelin." Mr. S. J. Brooks, A.R.C.O., a quondam pupil and now organist at Oxshott Church, played the organ parts. After the concert the visitors were kindly entertained to tea, inspected the work-rooms and witnessed an interesting exhibition of physical drill.

17. On April 6th, their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales paid a surprise visit to the West London Workshops for the Blind and inspected the various workshops and industries and graciously talked with the workers. On leaving, their Royal Highnesses expressed their gratification at what they had seen, and on the following day H.R.H. the Prince of Wales sent a donation of £25 and H.R.H. the Princess of Wales £5. Orders for goods have subsequently been received from Marlborough House.

18. On July 1st a Meeting was held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, to celebrate the Jubilee of the Society for Granting Annuities to the Poor Adult Blind. Unfortunately, on account of illness, Lord Eustace Cecil, who was to have presided, was unable to be present, but Mr. Stuart Johnson, the chairman of the Society and son of the Founder, took the chair at the beginning and gave an excellent account of the history of the Society. After his speech and on his motion the Lord Bishop of Stepney took the chair and congratulated the Society on its 50 years good work. This was seconded by Mr. Henry J. Wilson. Dr. Ranger also spoke and the Hon. Sec., the Rev. St. Clare Hill, who announced amidst cheers that the Jubilee was to be celebrated by increasing the pensions of 50 pensioners from £6 to £10 a year. After the meeting a tea was given to those pensioners who reside in London, and also a mug, presented by Mr. Stuart Johnson, with a suitable inscription. One of the mugs was sent to each pensioner in the country as a memento of

the occasion. This Society, which has greatly increased during recent years in funds, and in the number of its pensioners, and is doing real good service to the Blind, was founded in 1858 by the late Mr. Edmund Johnson and his blind friend Lord Cranborne, each giving a pension of £6 a year to a blind person. It now grants pensions to 250 blind men and women.

19. On July 12th the Foundation Stone of the new Bristol School of Industry for the Blind was laid at Southmead, Westbury-on-Trym. The Vice-Presidents received the guests between 3.30 and 4 p.m., when they proceeded to the site of the New Building, where a short service was conducted by the Archdeacon of North Wilts. The Foundation Stone was then laid by Mr. J. S. Fry and Addresses were given by the Lord Mayor, Col. Savile, C.B., and Mr. F. Richardson Cross. The old Institution which stands in Queen's Road, Bristol, has been bought by the University College. The first Institute was erected 116 years ago and the building still exists, and is now known as the Bethel Mission Hall in Callowhill Street, St. Paul's. In 1803, new premises were secured in Mandin Street, and in 1838 the work of the Institution was removed to the present building in Queen's Road.

20. To commemorate the visit of their Majesties the King and Queen, who were accompanied by Princess Victoria, on the occasion of the opening of the new University at Birmingham on July 7th, the Chairman of the Committee of the General Institution for the Blind, Birmingham (Mr. Arthur L. Lowe), presented to the pupils Medals similar to those presented by the Lord Mayor to the children in the Birmingham Elementary Schools. The King has graciously consented to become Patron of the Institution.

21. On July 15th, the annual excursion of the Institution for the Blind at Nottingham, took place at Sutton-on-Sea. Over 100 partially or totally blind persons enjoyed a most pleasant day at the seaside in lovely weather. Mr. Pine, secretary of the Institution, made the necessary arrangements for the outing and

with other members of the staff accompanied the party. There was plenty of donkey-riding, and between 60 and 70 blind persons enjoyed themselves in rowing boats.

22. The following books have recently been published in the "Moon" type :—"The Cruise of the Cachalot," by F. T. Bullen, in 8 vols., each $\frac{3}{4}$; "Forgiveness, Life and Glory," by Sir Arthur Blackwood, in 3 vols., each $\frac{3}{4}$; "Selections from Les Miserables," by Victor Hugo, 1 vol., $\frac{2}{3}$; "An Audience with the Dowager Empress of China," by Miss Mabel Broadman, $\frac{1}{5}$; "The Triumph of Wireless," by Captain J. B. Ranson, R.N.R., $\frac{1}{9}$; "The Birds Christmas Carol," by Kate Douglas Wiggin, in 2 vols., $\frac{4}{-}$. In hand nearly ready :—"A Spinner in the Sun," by Myrtle Reed, in 5 vols.; "Autobiography of a Slander," by Edna Lyall, in 2 vols.; "Mental Hygiene in everyday living," "The Point of View," and "A Talk on Relaxation." The three last named are by Alice Katherine Fallows; also 17 vols. of the Scriptures restereotyped.

23. The Annual Report for 1908 of the Incorporated National Lending Library for the Blind, 125, Queen's Road, London, W., is very satisfactory reading for the Blind, because it shows how rapidly literature in raised type is increasing. The daily average of books exchanged now reaches 250 and on more than one occasion over 340 were received in one day and an equal number sent out in their place. Fourteen municipalities subscribe on behalf of the Blind and 51 Institutions receive a regular supply of books. During the year, 1005 new volumes and 225 pieces of music were added to the Library. There are now 14 blind writers employed and £115 were paid in wages. The Arnold Carriage Fund expended £30 in assisting 111 readers to pay for the carriage of their books. Local Hon. Secs. have been appointed in various parts of the country. There is a large number of voluntary writers and correctors, and the Report contains a well-arranged list of all the books in the Library.

24. Boxes of letters, embossed in Braille on cardboard, are now sold by the British and Foreign Blind Association, 206,

Great Portland Street, W., price 1/- per set, postage 2d. Cards to enable the players to keep the letters in a straight line can also be had for 2d. each, postage 1d. Besides being embossed in Braille, the letters are also printed in ordinary type, thus enabling the Blind and the sighted to play with ease together, even though the latter cannot read Braille.

It is hoped that these word-making boxes will be largely patronised, both as an aid to education, and also as an amusement for young and old, much trouble and expense having been involved in the production of them.

25. A Meeting on Prevention of Infantile Blindness was held at Stoke-on-Trent, July 28th, when Lord Harrowby presided, and the following Resolutions were passed on the motion of Mr. Geo. Reid, Medical Officer of Health for the County of Stafford, and seconded by the Mayor of Hanley:—

“That in the opinion of this Meeting of the Mayors, Chairmen of the Urban District Councils, Town Clerks, and Medical Officers of Health of the Northern Division of the County of Stafford, the adoption by Public Health Authorities of the Notification of Births Act (1907) is desirable.”

“And this Meeting is further of opinion that the disease known as ‘Ophthalmia Neonatorum,’ that is, inflammation of the eyes in new-born children up to ten days old, should be added to the list of diseases compulsorily notifiable, under the powers of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act (1889).”

This Meeting was due to Mr. Greatbatch’s energy and enthusiasm, and the result of a conference held in March and attended by representatives of the North Stafford Joint School Authority and of the local workshop for the Blind to consider some remarks on the subject of Blindness in Infants by Dr. Folker at the last Annual Meeting of the Workshop for the Blind. Lord Harrowby in his opening address strongly supported the resolutions and remarked that it cost an average of £500 to educate a blind child up to the age of 18 years, without teaching it a trade, and the cost of educating a full-sighted boy for the nine years he

was at school, was only £29 4s. 3d. (roughly £30). If they multiplied that £500 by the 34 children in the county who ought not to be blind, and then deducting the cost of educating them if they were full-sighted children, they would see that £15,980 was wasted in Staffordshire alone in educating children who were blind through neglect.

Copies of the above resolutions were sent to all the public authorities in North Staffordshire; and the Local Government Board having been approached, it is gratifying to report that Mr. Burns, the President, has agreed to extend the applications of the Infectious Diseases Act to 'Ophthalmia Neonatorum' within the boundaries of the pottery towns of Fenton, Longton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stoke-on-Trent and Burslem. We heartily congratulate the authorities of these towns for taking the initial step in this matter and we earnestly hope that all local Health Authorities will apply for similar powers, as we understand that the authorities at Whitehall will readily accede to the applications, and in fact hope that such application will be made.

The report on this subject, drawn up by the Committee appointed at the Manchester Conference, was referred to in our last number and it has been widely circulated amongst Heads of Government Departments and others interested in the question. Copies of it were also sent to the Press, and several newspapers have referred to it and in some cases leading articles have appeared. The inclusion of 'Ophthalmia Neonatorum' amongst the diseases, which are compulsorily notifiable, was one of the recommendations of the Committee. There is no doubt that the effects of this terrible disease are at last being realised by those in power, and that action will now be taken by law to protect children yet unborn from becoming blind through the carelessness of those attendant on them.

20. The report for 1908 of the British and Foreign Blind Association shows the good work which has been carried on. The Association was founded in 1868 by the late Dr. Armitage. Special mention is made of the appointment of Mr. Henry Stainsby, who took up his duties as secretary general on 1st January last,

to which we referred in our January number. New and commodious buildings at a cost of £20,000 are about to be erected close to the site of the present premises. Steady progress has been made in the publishing department, and especially we must mention "Sound and Music," by Mr. Sedley Taylor, and adapted for the use of the Blind by Mr. H. M. Taylor, F.R.S. This is the first work published by the assistance of the "Embossed Scientific Books Fund," founded by Mr. H. M. Taylor. The "Daily Mail" Braille Edition is stereotyped and embossed weekly, and also all the magazines, except *Recreation*, have been continued. A great future is before this Association under its new Secretary General, and we shall be surprised if we have not to record most marked progress during the current year, including better organisation than there has been during the last few years, and the commencement of the new building.

A very large and influential Meeting was held at the Mansion House, by the kind invitation of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, on Wednesday, October 6th, on behalf of the Association. The Lord Mayor occupied the Chair, and after a kind welcome to the assembled company, made a most appreciative introductory speech, and said that if one who had never seen what the Blind could do, had their performances described to him, he would regard it as a fairy tale. He then called upon Sir James Crichton-Browne, F.R.S., who alluded to the interesting fact of its being the centenary of the birth of Louis Braille, whom he termed the patron saint of the Association. He also referred to the lasting beneficence of the late Dr. Armitage, who by introducing Braille type into this country had conferred such an inestimable boon on the English Blind. Other speakers included Sir William J. Collins, M.D., M.P., who made a speech of marked ability and interest, Capt. E. B. B. Towse, V.C., and Professor Malcolm McHardy, F.R.C.S., Chairman of the Association. Unfortunately one or two of the speeches were of undue length, which had the effect of considerably thinning the audience before the close of the meeting. An Exhibition of books, apparatus, etc., was held in the annexe, and visitors were invited to inspect them before leaving.

27. About 170 of the Adult Blind of Birmingham and the district, accompanied by their friends, attended at the General Institution for the Blind, Birmingham, on the invitation of the Committee, on Tuesday the 13th July, when a Tea and Entertainment were provided for them. The guests assembled at about three o'clock and left the Institution at a quarter past eight. It was a very successful gathering, and the thanks of the Adult Blind and their friends, as also of the Committee, are due to those who took part in the proceedings. A photograph of the room in which the entertainment took place was taken, and a copy will be presented to all who were present.

28. It is with much pleasure that we print the following correspondence, viz: the first letter from Mr. Marwood, of the Board of Trade, to Mr. Gooday, dated August 9th, and the second, dated August 17th, from Mr. Gooday, the General Manager of the Great Eastern Railway Company to Mr. Ashford. Comment is unnecessary.

(a) In reply to your letter of the 15th ultimo respecting the conveyance of blind passengers, I am directed by the Board of Trade to state for the information of your Directors that in their opinion the Company might reasonably allow blind passengers to travel at their own risk, so far as any accident due to their defective vision is concerned, without requiring them to be accompanied by an attendant at the terminal stations and intermediate stations, at which they may have to change carriages. I am to add the Board cannot see that any real responsibility for an accident to a blind person which was clearly due to his blindness would rest either with the Company or with the Department.

(b) In reply to your letter of the 11th instant I beg to inform you that no agreement will now be necessary, the Board of Trade having expressed the opinion that blind passengers might be allowed to travel at their own risk so far as any accident due to their defective vision is concerned, without requiring them to be accompanied by an attendant. We consider therefore that we are relieved from censure should an accident occur.

In answer to a question in the House of Commons from

Mr. Summerbell, on August 25th, Mr. Churchill replied that he was glad to say that a satisfactory conclusion had been arrived at with the Great Eastern Railway Company with regard to blind passengers. The Company had withdrawn the instructions requiring blind passengers to have a guide and had modified the form of contract so as only to absolve the Company from liability for injury arising out of the passenger's defective vision. The question is now definitely settled, and therefore we do not print some correspondence which has been sent us.

On Saturday afternoon, September 11th, a meeting of the new Committee in defence of blind travellers, was held at the School for the Blind, St. John's Wood, when Mr. F. O. Smithers presided. Dr. J. Fletcher Little, who has taken such deep interest in this question and such an active part in defending the rights of the Blind, gave an interesting account of the blind man who was refused a ticket when anxious to travel on the Great Eastern Railway. Mr. Stainsby stated that it was erroneous to suppose that the Blind were more liable to accidents than the sighted. Canon Gedge wrote a letter stating that he had travelled unceasingly for 24 years, and had found no difficulty in entering and leaving railway carriages. A Committee was formed to protect the interests of blind passengers on railways and other means of conveyance. The Hon. Secretary is Mr. T. H. Martin, Secretary of the School for the Blind.

29. The report of the 18th year's work of that invaluable society called "Sunbeam Mission," shows how its good work is steadily spreading. During the past year over 2,000 have been added to the membership, making a total of 67,000 children in all classes of life since the Mission began in 1891. The branch for the Blind has a unique record, and some hundreds of blind children are now on the lists. The devoted Hon. Secretary of this branch, Miss Beatrice Taylor, is ever thinking out new plans to bring more joy to the blind children, and has opened out a new world to them by setting members and associates to write to the children personal letters in Braille. The work of the Mission is to be most highly commended and approved.

30. An important meeting was held in July, at Derby, when the following resolution was carried unanimously :—"That this meeting approves of the establishment of workshops and retail sale shops in Derby, as a branch of the Midland Institution for the Blind, to be under the control of a Derby committee, with two members of the Institutions committee as ex-officio members, the rent and rates of the said shops being guaranteed by the Derby committee, but the management of the business to be carried on therein (subject to the general directions of the Derby Committee) and the responsibility of the same being in the hands of the Institutions Committee." The meeting was convened and presided over by the Mayor. It has been ascertained that there are 78 blind persons in Derby.

31. M. Maurice de la Sizeranne, who for many years has devoted himself entirely to the service of the Blind, has just issued a new book entitled, "Thirty Years of Study and Propaganda on behalf of the Blind," in which those who are interested in this afflicted class, will find a great deal of interesting and useful information.

In perusing this large volume of 503 pages, in noticing all the subjects broached upon, and so conscientiously handled by the author, in reading on the first page the long list of books already published by him, in calling to mind that he is not only a writer, but he is above all, also a man of action, one can imagine what great tenacity of purpose must have been required for a blind man to accomplish all this. In fact, it is in the course of these thirty years that M. de la Sizeranne has invented so much to benefit the Blind, and the Association Valentin Haüy, of which he is the active and energetic Secretary General. It is the personal and daily management of the things of which he speaks, which makes his writings so realistic and so valuable.

When one thinks of the hundreds of pages, compiled from thousands of notes, which have been written dot by dot, one understands and admires the immense service rendered to the Blind by Louis Braille, the inventor of his system of writing.

M. de la Sizeranne has often said that he is not one of those fortunate blind persons who can construct an entire chapter in

his head with the sole help of his memory, and then dictate or typewrite it; but that he had to memorise everything by writing it, in order to be able to read it over again as often as required. Hence the imperious necessity of a very rapid and tangible writing.

But there is no reason for us to imagine the author is always seated at his study table. A great lover of fresh air, he is often seen working while walking under the great palm trees at his home in Dauphiny, where every year he spends a few weeks of his holiday. His pockets full of notes, his Braille-Ballu frame always in his hand, he uses it and writes while he walks, not as quickly, but as surely as when seated. Without Braille it would not have been possible for him to carry out all the manifold affairs, great and small, during his "thirty years of study and propaganda on behalf of the Blind." This volume, which is in French, is on sale at the Association Valentin Haüy, 9, Rue Duroc, Paris. Price, post free, 7.50 francs. We take this opportunity of thanking the author very sincerely for a presentation copy.

32. A new and large society for the Blind has recently been formed in Japan and is called the Japan Blind Association. The government has granted a sum of money and a Braille printing machine, and has promised to give assistance annually. The new Association will not only print books but will also assist schools and blind students who are in need of help, as the Gardner Trust does in England and Wales. The Association has been started at the right time, as we hear that some of the schools had been closed, and others were on the point of closing from lack of funds.

33. The David Hill School for the Blind, Hankow, China, has completed more than 20 years work. The system of teaching is the "Hankow" system, in which 44 of the Braille signs are used. The curriculum is for a six years course. Biblical subjects are taught by the headmaster, as many of the boys are destined to be Bible readers. The industrial department has not proved successful and has been practically abandoned, but many are trained as musicians, and easily find employment. There are 34 boys in the school, but when the new buildings are completed, there will be accommodation for 60.

INSTITUTIONS.

Birmingham. The 62nd annual report, for the year ended March 31st, of the General Institution for the Blind, Carpenter Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, shows that 769 blind persons received direct benefit from the Institution, viz., 178 resident, and 8 day pupils, 13 teachers, 99 day workers, 7 travellers, 4 typists, 405 adult blind, 5 canvassers, &c. New workshops were opened last autumn at Harborne, where there is accommodation for 40 mat makers. This removal of the mat department has provided accommodation for 10 day workers and 17 pupils at the Main Institution. The sum of £5,108 was paid to blind persons in salaries, wages, &c. A sum of £47 has been distributed from the Middlemore Trust amongst 18 beneficiaries, to enable them to start in a trade. The sales amounted to £11,020, and the wages to £2,474, with an augmentation of £1,167.

Bradford. The 48th annual report, for 1908, of the Bradford Institution for the Blind, was presented at a meeting held on February 24th, when the Lord Mayor presided. The employees numbered 113 blind men and women, viz., 30 in brushmaking, 32 in knitting and chaircaning, &c. The total sales amounted to £11,849, of which sum £7,384 were realised in the brush department, and £2,718 were paid to the Blind in wages and allowances. There are 16 inmates in the Men's Home, who are chiefly employed at brushmaking and wood chopping, and there are 8 inmates in the women's Home, who are employed in knitting, string-bag making, chaircaning, &c. There are two blind collectors, who collected 1834 subscriptions. There are 309 names of blind persons on the books, who are visited by a Mission Woman. A blind man has been appointed to teach Braille or Moon's type to the employees and others in the neighbourhood. Annuities from various funds are paid to 28 blind people, amounting to £298.

Cardiff. The 44th annual report, for the year 1908, of the Cardiff Institute for the Blind, was presented at a meeting held on February 17th. The sale of goods amounted to £3,024, the

wages to £998, with additional bonuses of £109. There were 33 men and 10 women employed. There is a Braille class, which all apprentices are required to attend. An endowment fund of £2,000 has been raised. Seven workers receive £5 a year each from the Shand Memorial Fund.

Dundee. The 40th annual report of the Dundee Institution for the Blind, for the year ended March 31st, was presented at a meeting held on June 25th, and states that there are 71 inmates in the industrial department, and 19 (6 boys and 13 girls), in the educational department, making a total of 90. The sales amounted to £9,313, viz., £2,588 from mattresses and upholstery, £2,579 from brushes, £1,906 from baskets, and the balance from firewood, &c.; and the wages and allowances to £2,276. There has been an important extension of the mat department, and four new hand looms have been installed. There is a blind collector, and the amount collected by him shows an encouraging increase. The sum disbursed from the Sick Society, which is managed by the workers, was £84. There is a Boarding Home, in which 7 adult women, 11 girls, and 4 boys—22 in all—reside. The operations of the Institution are confined chiefly to the counties of Forfar, Perth and Fife.

Hull. The 45th annual report of the Hull Blind Institution was presented at a meeting held on April 21st, and shows that the sales amounted to £1,903; the wages to £1,067, and that £541 were received in legacies. The chief employments are chaircaning, basket, cork-fender, and mat making, and there are two masseuses. There is a Sick Benefit and Entertainment Branch, which has distributed about £3,000 during the last 25 years. There is a blind man who visits the blind (215) in the towns, and 41 blind persons are employed at the Workshops, or are inmates of the Rockcliffe Home for Blind Women.

Liverpool. The annual report, for 1908, of the Workshops for the Blind, Cornwallis Street, Liverpool, was presented at a meeting held on April 6th, when the Lord Mayor presided. In the brush department, 30 men and 14 women are employed; in the mat department, 44 men; in the basket department, 19 men;

in the upholstery department, 4 men and 9 women; and, in the chaircaning department, 9 women. The foundation-stone of the new workshops was laid on December the 1st. About £13,000 have been already raised, but £3,000 more are required to put the Institution on a firm and satisfactory basis. The wages paid to the blind amounted to £4,166, and 134 were employed. The sales reached £19,000. The Sick Club, managed by the blind employes, distributed £77 in sick relief. Thirteen annuitants received £182. There is a Home Teaching Society with 260 blind members on the register. £57 were given from the Benevolent Fund to deserving cases.

London (a) The 71st annual report, for 1908, of the London Society for Teaching the Blind to Read, 10, Upper Avenue Road, N.W., was presented at a meeting held on April 27th, when Sir W. J. Collins, M.D., M.P., presided. During 1908 there were 47 boys and 30 girls as resident and day pupils, and of these, 40 are maintained and educated entirely free. Reference is made to the improvement in the internal arrangements of the building, and additions to the school premises and plant. Legacies were received, amounting to £1,008, and the receipts from the Industrial department were £1,020. The journeymen's wages amounted to £238 for basketmaking and chaircaning, and a total sum of £766 was paid to blind employes.

(b) The 27th annual report, for the year 1908, of the West London Workshops for the Blind, 60, High Street, Notting Hill Gate, W., shows that there were 5 blind basket makers (men), 10 woodchoppers (men), 17 chaircaners (women), 3 semi-blind porters, and 1 blind collector. The sum of £645 was paid in wages to blind workers, and £158 as a supplementary allowance. The sales amounted to £1,549. The Committee's reasons for continuing to carry on the Institution, if only the residents of Kensington and West London will provide the necessary funds, are well set forth.

Northampton. The report for the year ended September 30th, 1908, of the Northampton and County Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, was presented at a meeting held on March 22nd, and shows that 18 blind persons

have been employed, and three more in connection with the Association, in selling tea and manufactured articles. A special appeal fund, to meet the defalcations (£381) of the late manager amounted to £504. Five blind persons received pensions—1 of £5, and 4 of 2/6 a week—from the George Phillips Trust. The sales amounted to £1,212.

Norwich. The report for 1908 of the Asylum and School for the Indigent Blind, Magdalen Street, Norwich, shows that at the close of the year the numbers on the books were: in the Technical School, 23 males and 17 females; in the Asylum, 2 males, 11 females, 9 journeymen and 1 pupil, making a total of 63. The legacies amounted to £760.

Nottingham. The 65th annual report for the year ended March 31st, 1909, of the Midland Institution for the Blind, Chaucer Street, Nottingham, was presented at a meeting held on June 30th. At the close of the year the number of pupils and outworkers was 100, of whom 59 were pupils under technical training and 41 were workpeople and adult learners. Evening classes in the usual subjects of education are held, and are attended by the pupils and by some of the adult learners. The sales amounted to £7,404. There is a blind canvasser and collector. £1,335 were received in legacies. A sum of £129 was granted to old pupils to assist them in their trades, and £1356 paid in wages to blind workpeople and journeymen. There are some very good illustrations in the report.

Oldham. The 25th annual report for 1908 of the Workshops for the Blind, Oldham, was presented at a meeting held on February 24th, presided over by the Mayor. There were 24 blind persons employed, either as journeymen or learners. There are 176 blind persons in Oldham, and particulars of those with no occupation are given. The sale of goods amounted to £4,518, and the wages to £2,011, but apparently the last sum includes wages for both blind and sighted labour. Seven females are employed through the generosity of Miss Lees, at Werneth.

THE UNIONS OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

The Midland Counties Union. The following circular has been issued by this Union :—

Though there are a number of admirable Institutions and Agencies at work in the Midland Counties for the benefit of the Blind, it is impossible for them to deal with the whole of the task. An effort is therefore being made to follow the example of the North of England and the Metropolitan area—where similar problems have arisen—and to form a Union of the ten Midland Counties. The objects which this Union has in view are :—

1. To ascertain and tabulate every case of blindness in the Midland Counties. This is a large undertaking, and can only be carried out through the kind assistance of the various Agencies, such as existing Institutions, Education Committees, Chief Constables, the Clergy and Ministers of all denominations, etc. But, until the necessary facts are collated and tabulated, it is impossible to proceed to the next object, which is—
2. The consideration of the best means of dealing with such cases as are not at present cared for by any Institution. After a general discussion of this problem by the delegates from existing Institutions, the next step will be—
3. The holding of Meetings in each County and the formation of County Committees. It will be obvious from the above that yet another object of the Union is—
4. To become a means of communication between existing Institutions.

Two Meetings of delegates have been held and a Committee and Office Bearers have been appointed. A sum of £45 has been collected, but this is not nearly sufficient for the first year's working. At least £125 will be required if the work is to proceed satisfactorily, and donations are earnestly solicited, and may be sent to the undersigned.

The following Report was presented by the Organising Secretary, Miss J. Merivale, at the Meeting of Delegates held on Thursday, 8th July last, at the Midland Institution for the Blind, Nottingham :—

After a visit to Miss Wright at Wakefield, the Organising Secretary of the Northern Union, who kindly explained the method of working of the Northern Counties Union, a set of S.S.F.A. maps of the ten Midland Counties, showing the Parish boundaries and Police Divisions was obtained by the courtesy of Colonel Gildea. On these existing Societies or Institutions in aid of the Blind have been marked. A circular letter to each of the 31 County and Borough Chief Constables in the ten Counties was then sent out, asking them to supply lists of the blind persons resident in their districts. To 25 of these letters favourable and very kind replies have been received. The information thus obtained is being tabulated. These lists are, however, not exhaustive, and they are being supplemented from other sources, viz., the Parochial Clergy, Education Authorities, and others, to whom forms are being sent which they are requested to fill up with name, age, condition, place of residence, and other details. All this is an exceedingly slow business, and there is work for many months to come. When these lists are complete it will be possible to judge both what are the special needs of the blind in each district, and in what parts additional workers are required.—S. M. Burrows, Chairman and Hon. Treasurer, 9, Norham Gardens, Oxford.

The Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union. A Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union was held at the rooms of the Gardner Trust, 53, Victoria Street, S.W., on Saturday, 17th July, 1909, at 12 noon.

Mr. H. J. Wilson (Chair), Miss Beatrice Taylor, Sir John Brickwood, Sir Francis Campell, Mr. Lempriere, Mr. Stuart Johnson, and Mr. Guy Campbell.

The Chairman stated, that before he commenced with the business of the Meeting, he would like to take the opportunity

on behalf of the members present, and of the Metropolitan Union as a body, to convey their heartiest congratulations to Sir Francis and Lady Campbell for the honour which had been conferred upon them by His Majesty the King, and expressed the satisfaction all felt in having the pioneer work, which had been done for the cause of the blind by Sir Francis Campbell, thus recognised.

Regrets for inability to attend the Meeting were reported on behalf of Mrs. Inglis, Miss Bainbrigge, Miss Moon, and the Rev. St. Clare Hill.

The question of the Affiliation Fee of Societies to the Union was most carefully discussed, and it was suggested that the Committee should recommend to the Council that the fee should be reduced from one guinea to 10/-, it being understood that that was only the minimum amount necessary to secure voting power, but that a larger sum would be gratefully received.

The way in which the Table of Schools, &c., had been typed was highly approved. Several additions were suggested by members.

It was reported that 24 names of applicants for Hetherington's Charity had been sent in, and Mr. Lempriere stated that particulars as to the election had been supplied to these candidates, whose applications, with others, would be considered in October.

It was reported that out of 61 possible candidates for tea agencies, only *two* had expressed any willingness to offer themselves for the work.

It was reported that a very satisfactory interview had been held between Major-General Codrington and Colonel Gilmour on behalf of the Association of Subscribers to Charities, and the Hon. Secretary. These gentlemen had been deputed by the Association to look into the work for the Blind, and they were so pleased to find that a Metropolitan Union was already in existence, that they felt it was no longer necessary for them to consider the necessity of doing other than most heartily recommending the Association to support the work of the Union.

Miss Taylor reported that though several candidates for the

post of Organising Secretary had been seen or communicated with, the Committee had nothing definite to report at present.

The Chairman reported that Miss Bainbrigge was organising help among the Blind in Bromley and Sevenoaks, and that Miss Hastings was willing to work at Tunbridge Wells for a few weeks.

A letter dated the 2nd July, from Mr. Tate, on behalf of the Pensions' Committee of the International Conference on the Blind was read. Two resolutions were specially submitted. (1) A Resolution, submitted by the Home Teaching Society of Newcastle, regarding the Old Age Pensions Act, as follows:—
 "To draw the attention of the Local Government Board to the question of Blindness, and to ask that in any amendment of the Old Age Pension Act, an addition be made to section 3, subsection (a) exempting out-door relief given to a blind person, who is otherwise eligible, from being a disqualification for an Old Age Pension." After discussion it was agreed: "That the Meeting is not in favour of exempting out-door relief from being a disqualification for an Old Age Pension." The second resolution was as follows:—In regard to a reference from the "Conference of Unions," held at the Offices of the Gardner's Trust, that "It was the opinion of the majority of this Conference that in the case of blind persons the age for the Government Pension should be 60 instead of 70." With regard to the resolution, it was felt there was not sufficient information at hand to express an opinion, and the Hon. Secretary was requested to find out from his Register how many people there were of the respective ages of 60, 65 and 70 years.

A letter was read from the Hon. Secretary of the L.C.C. After-Care Committee, stating that they did not see their way to open a typewriting office for blind people. Members felt that it was very hard for blind people to be trained as typists by the L.C.C., and then for that body not to make some effort to find them employment.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of this Union met on October 2nd, at 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W., when there were present: Mr. H. J. Wilson in the Chair, Miss

Bainbrigge, Miss B. Taylor, Sir Francis Campbell, Sir John Brickwood, Messrs. Stuart Johnson, W. Lemprière, and Guy M. Campbell.

Letters were read from Miss Moon, Mrs. Inglis, and Rev. St. Clare Hill, regretting their inability to attend.

A vote of sympathy with Miss Moon was passed, on her recent operation for cataract.

Miss Gwendoline Burgess was appointed Organising Secretary, to commence her duties on October 11th, and a vote of cordial thanks was passed to Miss B. Taylor and Miss Bainbrigge for kindly making enquiries and interviewing candidates.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Association of Subscribers to Charities, concerning the advisability of establishing a central fund to aid the existing Institutions for the Blind, but the discussion of this matter was deferred until the next meeting.

THE JUBILEE INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND.

The new Jubilee Institute for the Blind, Auckland, New Zealand, was opened in May last by Lord Plunket, the Governor, and from the pictures that we have seen of it, it seems to be a very handsome, commodious building, well equipped, up-to-date, and well adapted for its purpose. There are excellent illustrations of the Institute and of the work carried on there, in the New Zealand Town and Country Life, of May 26th, of which a copy has kindly been sent us. Much progress has apparently taken place since the appointment of Mr. Frayling, as Principal, referred to in "The Blind" of July, 1906. The first effort to ameliorate the condition of the Blind in New Zealand was made on April 8th, 1889, when a meeting was held in Auckland, and Mr. J. W. Tighe, a blind man, who was instrumental in starting an Institution in Queensland, was appointed teacher for the new Association which was called "The Friends of the Blind."

During his first year Mr. Tighe visited 133 blind persons, including 6 Maoris. The foundation of the Institute, in 1890, was primarily due to the advocacy and exertions of Mr. John Abbott. In 1890 it was decided to rent a building for a school, and in the following year the building was purchased and a schoolroom, gymnasium, dormitories, &c., were added at a cost of £2,360. At the close of the year 1891 there were 19 resident pupils in the school, and in 1892 a workshop was opened with seven adult workers. In 1894, the present secretary, Mr. R. Leslie Hunt, was appointed, and the year closed with 28 residents and 2 day scholars and 13 in the workshop. In 1905 Mr. and Mrs. Tighe severed their connection with the Institute, and in June, 1906, Mr. Charles H. Frayling arrived from England and took up his duties, as Principal. The contract price for the new building, begun on January 24th, 1907, was £13,735. Some of the pupils are doing very well in shorthand, and three Stainsby-Wayne machines were sent out last year. After eight months tuition three pupils were capable of recording dictated articles at a speed of about 90 words per minute, and this has been increased in some instances to 140 words per minute. Pianoforte tuning is also successfully taught, and seven pupils are doing very well as pianoforte tuners. Other forms of industry are basket-making, mat-making, halter plaiting, netting, &c., and especially strawberry chip boxes, for which there is a large demand during the season. The collector is a blind man and visits all parts of the Dominion, and besides collecting contributions he visits past inmates of the Institute who are engaged in various occupations throughout New Zealand.

The following is an extract from "*The Auckland Star*."

"An unprecedented feat was established yesterday afternoon by a student of the Jubilee Institute for the Blind, Auckland. The youth, whose name is Doric Algie, is 15 years of age, and has been taught to record readings at a rate of about 120 words a minute upon a specially-constructed machine. He has only been learning nine months and is wonderfully proficient. Yesterday he was tested by Sir Joseph Ward. To see what the sightless stenographer could do, Sir Joseph stood behind him and spoke

as follows :—‘ This is the first occasion upon which I have had the pleasure of having any comments taken down in a substitution for shorthand, such as you are doing now by the touch of the fingers, without the advantage of eyesight, and I would like to express the great pleasure I feel in finding that you are able to use your energies in such a useful and satisfactory manner. It is very creditable indeed to the tuition of the institution, in which you are, and shows really what extraordinary faculties can be developed without that great blessing of eyesight which so many of us do not realise the great value of until we see those who unfortunately have not the advantage of it.’

The trial was so satisfactorily accomplished by the youth that it was arranged that he should attempt to report a speech which was about to be delivered by the Premier.

The Premier is a rapid speaker, but, on this occasion, reduced his pace to from 80 to 100 words per minute. After explaining his object in speaking slower than usual, Sir Joseph made a reference to the student, which was correctly translated by the latter, as follows :—‘ To me this is one of those scientific developments, the outcome of the teaching of those who are responsible in the Blind Institute, that call for the warm eulogies of those of us who recognise the practical and useful side of teaching that is being imparted to those who unfortunately are afflicted with blindness. A short time ago I spoke alongside the young fellow, and used one or two long words for the purpose of testing his capacity to have them recorded and translated by the feel of the fingers, and every word was translated afterwards perfectly correctly, so I want to say that if I had come here to-day for no other purpose than that of seeing what valuable work is done in this respect in the Auckland Blind Institute, it would have more than repaid the short time devoted to coming to this very interesting exhibition. I express the hope that the young fellow, who has really a remarkable profession in his hands, may pass out into that branch of work where the recording of matter in private offices is invaluable and indispensable to the every-day necessities of the men and women who are now travelling at such a pace in the matter of commercial or business

competition.' The Premier proceeded to refer to the gratitude owing to the teachers of the blind. He then proceeded with his speech, which was recorded by the blind youth, and this morning translated in the presence of a *Star* reporter.

The feat is unique, and it is the first time that a Prime Minister's speech, if any speech at all, has been recorded by a blind person."

INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND AT AMSTERDAM.

When I was in Amsterdam a week or two ago, I visited the Blinden Institut there, in the hope of learning something new from Dutch methods of dealing with the Blind. It is situated in one of the best quarters of the city, close to the famous Ryks Museum, and is a fine new building built on modern principles, with large airy well lighted rooms and corridors.

The Director, Herr Lenderenk, is a man who has devoted much time and enthusiasm to the service of the Blind. He has published two large books on the subject, neither of which, unfortunately, has yet been translated from the original Dutch. One, at which I glanced, seemed to treat exhaustively of the methods tried in different countries in the training of blind deaf mutes. I had hoped to learn much from Herr Lenderenk, and was disappointed to find, on arriving at the Institute, that he had been unable to keep the appointment made with him, and we were to be conducted over the school by a young teacher who had only a slight knowledge of English. Conversation with him was really a matter of four languages, English, French, German and Dutch, but he was keenly interested in the place, and thanks to his patience and good humour, we were able to get our questions satisfactorily answered.

He took us first to the Board Room, where we were shown the books, maps, games, &c., used in the school. For the most part these were made in Germany, but the "English Board," as it is called, is the only one in use for writing.

The practical method of teaching Natural History by actual touch is largely employed. There were models of the larger animals and stuffed specimens of the smaller ones, and the children, handling these, learned far better than from any description the shape of an elephant's trunk, the softness of a mole's velvet coat, or the prickliness of a hedgehog's quills. Our guide pointed out to us later, on the walls of one of the classrooms, cleverly carved reliefs of animals—"blind pictures," as he called them.

I noticed on the shelves Miss Yonge's "*Heir of Redclyffe*," translated into Dutch, and we were told that there are many English stories in the library. From the Board Room we went to the room where the girls learn to knit and sew—nothing new there, and then to the young master's own Class Room. Here he showed us with pride plans which he had made himself for the use of his pupils. One represented the schoolroom. On a sheet of prepared cork were fixed pieces of wood representing the two long tables and benches, and the master's desk; drawing pins marked the children's seats. Another plan necessarily much more elaborate, showed the ground floor of the Institute, with the entrance hall, passages and rooms; a third was a map of Amsterdam, with the streets, canals and bridges indicated. This would be specially useful to the day scholars. There were also hanging on the walls good maps in relief for the use of the Blind, published by a New York firm.

According to the excellent system which we found adopted in other Dutch schools, the children are first given a thorough knowledge of their surroundings. They are taught how their forefathers reclaimed the land from the sea, and literally created a large part of the Holland of to-day; and they learn something of the ingenuity and unceasing care which are needed to keep the surface waters from submerging afresh the rescued polders where the cattle graze, and the sea from breaking through the dykes and flooding whole tracts of country, as has happened at times in the past.

It was the dinner hour and the rooms were all empty. A few of the children, living in the Institution, were exercising in a

small strip of garden, boys and girls separately, and as we left we heard those who live outside returning to their work.

The trades taught are the same as with us, basket and brush-making, caning and knitting. We were told that there is a ready sale at fair prices for everything made in the school; nevertheless, it is apparently as difficult for a blind man or woman to earn a livelihood in Holland as in England. The Institution is richly endowed. The pupils are kept until they have received a good education and have learnt a trade. Those who are friendless are allowed to remain on, and to give their labour in exchange for a home and a small sum of money weekly, but they receive no regular wage.

I heard a good deal of the large Roman Catholic Blind School at Grave, which is similar in its management and methods of training to the Royal Normal College at Norwood. I had hoped to be able to visit it during its Festival week, when the Institution is thrown open to visitors, but was unfortunately obliged to leave Holland earlier than I had expected.

The Blindenbibliothek at the Hague, unlike the greater number of the charities in Holland, is not supported by a religious body, has no endowment, and does not receive any Government or municipal aid. It is entirely dependent on voluntary writers and voluntary subscriptions, even exacting no payment from the readers all over the country whom it supplies with books, although it is understood that those who can afford to do so should contribute to the support of the Library.

A. M. HARRIS BROWNE.

September 19th, 1909.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor.

September, 1909.

Sir,

I am anxious to interest the readers of "Blind" in this scheme now being started in India.

The writer of the following letter has himself become blind, and therefore has to retire from his position as a Post-master in

India. He is known to me personally, and would make an excellent Secretary for the Library, being a particularly intelligent middle aged man, well up in Braille matters. He would be able to correspond with the sighted through his Type-writer, and with the Blind by means of Braille.

I consider that a Secretary must be had for organizing, correspondence, packing, binding and caring for and sorting the books etc., and hope we may be able to obtain an endowment fund for this purpose.

Extract from "The Pioneer," India.

ENGLISH-SPEAKING BLIND PEOPLE IN INDIA.

"Sir,

Scarcely any affliction calls out the sympathy of mankind, more than that of blindness, but in this country, unless it be among the poorest natives of India, the Blind do not usually come before the public as having any needs apart from pecuniary amelioration.

It may not be widely known that a very great deal can be done towards giving light in the darkness of the life of the educated and better classes of the Blind in India by putting literature in their way. I have been surprised to find that comparatively few people are aware of the many kinds of reading that can be done by the Blind, and how easily they can be acquired.

The oldest is Dr. Moon's type, which is being displaced by the English and American Braille types and the New York Point.

I have been myself astonished to find how large a choice can be made among them, from the Scriptures to every class of reading, and maps and music.

People often think it almost impossible for adults to acquire reading by touch, fancying that the finger tips would have become too hardened to be sufficiently sensitive, but it takes a very great deal to blunt this, one of nature's most useful senses.

It is only that we are less accustomed to consciously noticing and practising the sense of touch, not that it is less keenly sensitive. I know of several blind people who have learned, and are making daily use of the above-named systems, but all speak to the difficulty of obtaining literature in India.

This difficulty does not consist in the paucity of suitable literature, but that in most cases it cannot be had in India, and people cannot afford the cost of obtaining it from England, Scotland and America.

The cost of books is not much in itself, but freight is so expensive, owing to the high rate of postage, and the weight of the books, that in many cases poor people find it beyond their reach, and even to those in better circumstances it becomes quite a considerable item of expenditure. This has given me and some of my friends the idea that a Lending Library might with advantage be started for the Blind in India.

My object in writing this letter is first of all to awaken interest, and then to ask for co-operation from all who might like to give their ideas, opinions, suggestions, and help of any kind towards advancing this Library. We already have a small nucleus in the form of a few rupees, and some books including novels, history, poetry, travels, etc., besides books of the Bible and religious works, also some back numbers of magazines, and a weekly English newspaper. Particulars regarding these will be furnished, and they will be gladly lent to anyone desiring to read them.

Most of these books and magazines are in English Braille, but there are also some in Moon-type, American Braille, and New York Point, and we expect in a short time with the help of friends in England and India, to have some Urdu books in embossed Braille. I shall be glad to receive the names and addresses of blind persons in India, who already read, or desire to learn any of the above types, or who would like to know anything about them. Donations of embossed books and papers, or support in any form will be thankfully received and acknowledged by the undersigned, etc., etc."

This is Mr. James's letter sent to a daily paper circulating in India.

Yours faithfully,

(MISS) EMILY SHARP.

The Grange, Redhill.

The Blind.

VOL. III.

No. 49.

JANUARY 20TH, 1910.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before March, 21st, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. We much regret to have to record the death of Baron Fernand de Schickler. Those who were present at the London Conference in 1902, will remember his kind genial manner, and his deep interest in the cause of the Blind. He spoke English fluently and very well. He will be much missed in Paris, where he has devoted much time and thought on behalf of the Blind.

2. It is also with much regret that we have to announce the death, on December 19th, after a severe operation, of Mr. Thomas Taylor, the respected Superintendent for nearly 20 years of the School for the Blind, Hardman Street, Liverpool. The Funeral Service was held at 1.15 p.m. on December 22nd, in the School Chapel, and there was a large attendance.

3. Mr. Stuart Johnson has been elected Chairman of Day's Charity. He is also Chairman of the Poor Adult Blind Society, member of the Committee of the School for the Blind, Leatherhead, and of the Workshop in Waterloo Road, and Hon. Treasurer of the Union of Unions, and of the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union.

4. We are pleased to hear that Miss Moon's second operation for cataract has been quite successful.

5. Miss Helen Keller has become a subscriber to "The Blind."

6. At the Government Examination for Teacher's Certificates, held in July last at the Smith Training College, Margaret Sullivan and Cissie Till passed, the latter with distinction in English, History and Geography. The above were students at the Royal Normal College.

Harold Bentley, Teacher under the Nottingham Council, passed the Examination for Teacher's Certificate, and Minnie Self, Teacher at the Plymouth Institution, the Preliminary Examination for Certificate.

7. Mr. Tadasu Yoshimoto, Commissioner of the Japanese Government on all matters pertaining to the Blind, has decided to prolong his stay in England. He has to send reports not only to the Department of Education, but also to the Department of Internal Affairs, which attends to prevention of blindness and the adult Blind. Mr. Yoshimoto has recently resigned his position in the Tokyo School for the Blind, and has joined the Japan Blind Association. An establishment, called "The Fugiya," has been opened under his direction, next door to South Kensington Station—Japanese fine art curios and fancy goods can be bought there, and it is hoped that eventually the profits may be sufficient to pay for the education in England of some specially clever Japanese boys. Mr. Yoshimoto writes: "As England is leading Japan in many things, so Japan is leading many Asiatic countries; and improving the blind world of Japan will also mean much more for her sister nations, where the Blind are literally stumbling in pitch darkness, wounded and helpless."

8. A new Braille Magazine yclept "Comrades," has appeared in the place of "Golden Sunbeams," which has been discontinued. The new Magazine is for the general reading of blind boys and girls, and the fact that it is edited by Mrs. Eden, sister

to Mrs. Ewing, the well-known authoress, is a guarantee that it will be absolutely wholesome, instructive and entertaining. The price of the magazine is 4d. per month, post free, or 4/- per annum; abroad, 7/- per annum. It is published on the 5th of each month by the British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W.

9. Dr. Fletcher Little has received an interesting letter from Miss Catherine McDougall (blind), the State of Victoria, Australia, in reference to the blind man who was refused a ticket to travel on the Great Eastern Railway. She states that the Association for the Blind in Victoria, consisting of blind and partially blind persons, applied to the Government, as most of them were unable to pay for themselves and their guides, and that now, every year a permit is forwarded to the blind person authorising him or her to obtain the following concession when travelling on the Victoria Railway, viz.: "When travelling with an attendant, one full single or return ticket is to pass the two persons; when travelling alone, one full ticket must also be held. No limitation is imposed as to the age and sex of the attendant." The same concession is made on the tramways. Miss McDougall adds, "we find no difficulty in travelling, as the railway officials are most kind and considerate."

10. On December 16th, Mr. Miles Priestley, the well-known and successful Manager of the Bradford Institution for the Blind, and Mrs. Priestley, celebrated their silver wedding by inviting all the employees of the Institution to a Tea and Entertainment. The musical part was contributed by blind people. The employees presented Mr. and Mrs. Priestley with a handsome gift, bearing a suitable inscription, and referred to the respect in which they were held, and the good feeling existing between Manager and the work people. Mr. and Mrs. Priestley also received many other presents, including a case of silver fruit knives from the Chairman of the Institution.

11. Miss Laura Douglas-Hamilton, Hon. Secretary to "Eyes to the Blind," is quietly doing a good work for blind

women, at 17, Callow Street, Fulham Road, S.W. She buys the material, pays the wages, and personally superintends the sales of manufactured goods, which last year amounted to £172. Thus 42 women have had the opportunity of doing some work and earning a little money, whereas, without the aid of this Society, they would probably have sat in idleness. The question of employment for blind persons, and especially for blind women, is a very serious and acute problem at the present time, and any helping hand in this matter like Miss Hamilton's, is welcomed. We notice that this problem is also felt in the United States of America, and that a department has been opened in one of the States in New York for the sale of goods made by the Blind. Articles were consigned from every part of the country to the Matilda Ziegler Magazine for the Blind, which is much interested in the undertaking. It has been well said that "the burden of the Blind is not their blindness but their idleness." This subject of employment for the Blind is referred to in an exceptionally lucid and able paper issued in November last by the Managers of the Yorkshire School for the Blind, from which we cull the following:—

"There are two main features to be borne in mind in relation to this subject—Employment for the Blind. (1) The blind men and women of to-day are as well educated and as capable—their blindness notwithstanding—as most other men and women. They are objects not of pity but of admiration, and as such they have a widespread influence for good. (2) Without the continued help and active sympathy of those who have befriended them as children they may, at this critical age, too readily fall *into the ranks of the unemployed* and suffer the more by reason of the education and development they have received at School and in the Workshop. In the absence of the active sympathy of those who have befriended them, these worthy members of society are apt to be led astray by blind leaders of the Blind, and, by becoming disappointed, to grow discontented and impatient of their lot in life."

12. On December 13th, Mr. John Pearce gave his Annual Dinner to 250 blind persons and their guides belonging to the

Indigent Blind Visiting Society. An excellent entertainment followed, which was provided mainly by members of Mr. Pearce's family. On leaving, a box of chocolate was presented to each blind woman, and tobacco to the men, and 1/- to all.

13. A Meeting of the Conference Committee (Exeter, 1911) was held on October 23rd, at 5 p.m., at the Office of Gardner's Trust, when there were present:—Mr. H. J. Wilson, in the Chair, Miss Austin, Miss Wright, Sir F. J. Campbell, Rev. St. Clare Hill; Messrs. Dixon, Maddocks, Munby, Pine, Platt, Siddall, Stainsby, Stone, and Collingwood (Hon. Secretary), also Lady Campbell, Mr. Guy Campbell and Mr. M. Priestley, as visitors.

Apologies for absence were read from the Rev. F. N. McNeile, and Mr. J. Frew Bryden.

The Chairman stated that he had received a communication from the Committee of the West of England Institution for the Blind, in which they intimated their ready willingness to co-operate most heartily with the Conference Committee to make the Exeter Conference of 1911 as successful as possible.

A considerable amount of time was devoted to the consideration of eighteen subjects, which had been submitted from various sources, as being suitable for "papers" at the forthcoming Conference. Finally, the following four subjects were selected, and also the compilers and readers of the respective papers, viz.:—

1. Training in the Requirements of Social Life at Home and in Society: and the best methods of securing it, by Lady Campbell.
2. Women's Interests (Industries, Institutions, Recreations, etc.), by Mr. W. M. Stone.
3. After-Care: and how best to advertise the capable blind, so as to provide them with employment, by Mr. H. Stainsby.
4. Teachers of the Blind: their training, qualifications, and reasonable prospects of employment, by Rev. St. Clare Hill.

Of the remaining subjects, some were left over for further consideration, and others were eliminated. It was decided that one Session at least should be devoted to Colonial and Foreign papers.

The Chairman reported that he had availed himself, during a recent visit to Devonshire, of the opportunity of visiting with the Hon. Secretary the various Halls in Exeter suitable for the Conference Meetings; and that he considered the one suggested eminently suited for such gatherings. As the space available for the Exhibition was somewhat limited, the Hon. Secretary was requested to ascertain whether an adjoining Hall was obtainable for that purpose.

A draft programme of arrangements for the Conference week was provisionally adopted; and it was further decided that the Opening of the Exhibition should immediately precede the formal Opening of the Conference on the Monday afternoon.

Owing to the lateness of the hour, and the consequent inconvenience to members living at a distance, Mr. Guy Campbell suggested that his draft proposal as to the formation of a British Physical Association for the Blind should be again adjourned for further consideration.

14. A meeting of the National Employment Committee of the Blind was held at the Offices of the Association for the Employment of the Blind, Tottenham Court Road, London, on Friday, October 22nd, 1909, when there were present, Mr. Henry J. Wilson, in the Chair, the Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. J. H. Hewitt, W. H. Illingworth, C. Macdonald, H. E. Mullins, A. B. Norwood, M. Priestley, H. Stainsby, and H. W. P. Pine, Hon. Secretary.

The Chairman and several members of the Committee of the Tottenham Court Road Association attended the meeting as visitors, and offered a warm welcome to the National Committee, wishing them every success in the great work they had in hand.

The Hon. Secretary stated that owing to the hopeless state of Parliamentary business, and the consequent impossibility of doing anything with the Blind Aid Bill during the present Session, its revision had not been proceeded with.

The question of what other trades might be beneficial to the blind workers, and the Institutions which employ them, was considered. The Hon. Secretary was requested to invite the writing of Papers by persons who had expert knowledge of any particular trade or industry not generally practised ; such Papers to suggest the best method of establishing the trade or industry, the cost, and the prospect of wage earning for the Blind.

15. Some excellent wire work is done by Mr. A. J. Gormand, who is totally blind, at 28, Woronzow Road, St. John's Wood, London, N.W. He has received orders from the Orient Royal Mail line for wire articles, including ladles, drainers, frying baskets, whisks, sieves, &c., and all have been skilfully carried out by Mr. Gormand and his two blind assistants to the entire satisfaction of the Company.

16. The publishers of the "Weekly Summary," a newspaper in Braille for the Blind, publish some very nice Christmas cards for the Blind ; one with an embossed Church, price 6d., postage 1d.; another with an embossed squirrel, price 3d., postage 1d.; and another with embossed geese, price 1½d., post free—all the cards have appropriate words for the season. They also publish a Tennyson Calendar for 1910, price 1/1, post free, and a text book, "Day by Day," with text and devotional reading for every day of the month, price 8d., post free. All the above can be obtained from the editor of the "Weekly Summary," Shere, Surrey.

17. The Birmingham Institution for the Blind has received Royal Patronage, and in future will be known as the "Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind," and the Kindergarten School at Harborne as "The Queen Alexandra Kindergarten Branch."

18. On March 2nd, a Concert is to be given on behalf of the Indigent Blind Visiting Society, at Stratford Town Hall. Mr. Charles Saunders, the well-known tenor, has promised to sing and, therefore, the Concert ought to be very successful.

Any further information can be obtained from Mr. W. Mead, 95, Gurney Road, Leytonstone Road, Stratford, E.

19. The annual meeting of the North Wales Home Teaching Society for the Blind was held at Bangor, on October 16th, when the Mayor presided. There was a very large gathering, and after a financial statement had been made, the Mayor referred with much regret to the resignation of Mrs. Young as Hon. Secretary, a post which she had held for 15 years with the greatest benefit to the Society. She had devoted much time and patience to further the work, and to make it very beneficial to the Blind of the district. Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Secretary of Gardner's Trust, then addressed the meeting on the general question of the Blind, after he had referred to the serious loss the Society had sustained by the resignation of Mrs. Young, of whose untiring and valuable services he had ample proofs. There were several stalls in the Hall for the sale of articles made by the Blind, and a number of blind persons were at work.

20. On December 15th, the new large workroom built in the Cardiff Institute for the Blind at a cost of nearly £700, was opened by Mr. D. A. Thomas, M.P. The new room has been built over the old workshop, the floor of which has been raised so as to afford more light and air to the workers. There will now be accommodation for 40 or 50 additional workers. After the proceedings, a Sale of Work was held in the old workroom.

21. This month there are to be Jubilee Meetings of the Mission to the Outdoor Blind of Glasgow and the West of Scotland. There will be a *Conversazione*, a Concert by blind artistes, and Services in Glasgow Cathedral and in Wellington Church, where Mr. Fred Turner (blind) is Organist. One of the preachers will be the Rev. H. J. R. Marston, M.A.

22. On December 10th, a large and influential meeting was held at Derby and presided over by the Bishop of Southwell. Alderman Chambers, Chairman of the local Committee, issued the invitations to a meeting at the Victoria Hall. He said that

there were 78 blind persons in Derby, and that it was proposed to secure premises for use as a workshop, and a retail saleshop. The Midland Institution for the Blind would be responsible for carrying on the business for a period of three years, Sir Henry Bemrose and others having guaranteed £100 a year. It was decided also to start a Sick and benefit fund.

INSTITUTIONS.

Edinburgh. The 116th report of the Royal Blind Asylum and School, Edinburgh, for the year ended September 30th, 1909, was presented at the annual meeting, held on December 23rd, when Lord Haddington presided. A sum of £500 was distributed in outdoor allowances to 127 blind persons. The legacies amounted to £5,288, and the sales to £16,284. The amount paid in wages to 140 employees was £6,677. In the home department at West Craigmillar there were 43 women, 24 boys, and 17 girls on the roll on September 30th. A special instructor has been engaged for wood work. Fourteen candidates were presented at the examination of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, and all passed, three with honours. The sales in the printing department and music copying have increased.

York. The 71st annual report of the Yorkshire School for the Blind, for the year 1908, was presented at the meeting held on May 25th, when the Archbishop of York presided. On December 31st, 1908, there were 74 children (45 boys and 29 girls) at the School. A grant of £36 has been made from the Markham Fund, to former pupils, to assist them in their trades. The sales amounted to £4,301, and £920 were paid in wages, exclusive of £205 in supplements and holiday allowances. There are 19 outmates, viz.: 12 basket-makers, 3 brush-makers, 3 mat-makers, one mattress-maker, and 11 out-pupils. The Industrial Home at Scarborough where there are eleven blind women, is a branch of the School. Swedish handloom weaving has been recently introduced into the Home. Legacies were received amounting to £1,406.

THE UNIONS OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

The first meeting of the Union of Unions of Agencies for the Blind was held at the Offices of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., on Saturday the 23rd October, 1909, at 2.15 p.m. There were present :—

Metropolitan Union—Mr. Guy Campbell, Miss B. Taylor, Mr. H. J. Wilson.

Midland Union—Miss J. Merivale, Mr. H. W. P. Pine, Mr. W. H. Thurman.

North of England Union—Mr. W. H. Illingworth, Mr. F. J. Munby, Miss E. Wright.

North-West Union—Archdeacon E. Barber, Miss M. Comber, Miss B. Griffith.

South Wales and Monmouthshire Union—Mr. J. Hall.

Western Counties Union—Mr. C. M. Collingwood, Mr. Greek Wills.

Visitors—Miss G. Burgess, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mr. Stuart Johnson.

Mr. Wilson was elected to the Chair for the reading of the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 6th February. The Minutes having been read and confirmed, Mr. Wilson vacated the Chair.

Upon the motion of Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Pine, and supported by Mr. Collingwood, Mr. Wilson was unanimously elected Chairman of the Union of Unions.

Upon the motion of Mr. Collingwood, seconded by Mr. Pine, Mr. Guy Campbell was proposed as Hon. Secretary, and Mr. Campbell proposed that Miss Beatrice Taylor should be elected to act with him as joint Secretary. Miss Taylor having signified her willingness to accept the office, it was unanimously resolved that Miss Beatrice Taylor and Mr. Guy Campbell be appointed joint Hon. Secretaries of the Union of Unions.

Mr. Stuart Johnson, having been requested to become the Hon. Treasurer, and having kindly consented to so act, was duly elected.

The following matters were then discussed :—(a) One form

of constitution ; (b) Similar enquiry papers ; (c) After-Care ; (d) Decentralization ; (e) Definition of Blindness.

With regard to the prevention of blindness, the Chairman pointed out that the Potteries District had succeeded in agreeing that Ophthalmia Neonatorum should be regarded as a notifiable disease by the Medical Officers of Health, and it was unanimously resolved :—"That the Hon. Secretaries should forward to the Secretary of each Union the resolutions which were passed at Stoke-on-Trent on the 28th of July, of this year, requesting them to take similar action in their own Unions." The resolutions were given in the last number of "The Blind."

(f) Pensions ; (g) Future Agenda.

Upon the motion of Archdeacon Barber, seconded by Mr. Hall, it was agreed :—"That the Secretary of each Union should send one month before the next meeting of the Union of Unions any matters on behalf of their Union that they wish to have appear on the Agenda."

(h) Finance. Mr. Pine referred to the financial arrangements.

It was unanimously resolved that Mrs. Kepple Taylor be very sincerely thanked for her spontaneous and generous donation of £10 10s. to the Union of Unions.

The question as to the amount to be asked from Associations and Agencies for the Blind as a subscription to their respective Unions, was discussed.

It was agreed that the Hon. Treasurer and all Organising Secretaries of Unions, paid or unpaid, should be ex-officio members of the Union.

Upon the motion of Miss Taylor, seconded by the Chairman, it was unanimously agreed that a letter of condolence be forwarded to the relatives and friends of the late Miss Lord, recording how much the Union of Unions appreciated the kindness, sympathy, and labour which Miss Lord had always bestowed on the Blind.

North of England Union. The last quarterly meeting of this Union was held at York, on Saturday, November 13th.

A report was read from the Sub-Committee elected at the

July meeting, to advise on the constitution of the Executive Committee. It was resolved that the Executive Committee be formed of twelve members, namely, from Lancashire 3, Yorkshire 3, Durham 2, Northumberland 2, and Cumberland and Westmoreland 2, with the four officials *ex-officio*, the Chairman, the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Secretary, and the Organising Secretary.

It was moved by Miss Heywood, and carried unanimously, that "Domine, dirige nos" be adopted as the motto for this Union. It is the one already adopted by the Metropolitan Union, and it is hoped that all the Unions may in time take the same motto. The work and activities of the Union are at present directed to those Divisions, in the North, where there are large groups of blind persons, and so far, no agency at work on their behalf. The two special districts being taken in hand at present being Bury County Division and Wigan County Division in Lancashire.

In Bury, a meeting was held on December 9th, with the Rector of that town in the Chair, when Miss Heywood spoke on the need for the care of the Blind. Much interest was aroused, which, it is expected, will develop into some definite movement on their behalf; in Wigan also, some steps have been taken in the same direction, and early in the New Year it is hoped that a meeting may be arranged there also.

The Union has parted with much regret from Miss Rayner, the representative from Stockport, a most energetic and helpful member of Committees. But now that other Unions have been formed, Stockport is claimed by the North West and Cheshire Union. Our loss is their gain, and we wish all success to Miss Rayner's work with that Union.

On October 23rd the three representatives of the Union attended the meeting of "The Union of Unions," at 53, Victoria Street, and also the gathering to do honour to Sir Francis Campbell, on the previous day.

In November a circular letter was sent out to all Agencies for the Blind in the North, to obtain information as to their views, in order to reply to a letter from the Pensions Committee on the following two points—(1) The question of exempting

outdoor relief from being a disqualification for an Old Age Pension given to a blind person; (2) The question of the reduction of the age limit to 60, instead of 70, for blind persons qualifying for Old Age Pensions. The answers to these questions from those most in touch with blind people throughout a wide area, will enable the Committee to voice the opinion of the North on these points.

The annual meeting in May next, will take place, it is hoped, in the County of Durham. The Vice-President, the Earl of Durham, has been asked to preside, Durham City or Sunderland being suggested as the centre.

The next quarterly meeting will be held at Bradford, on January 22nd.

It is with deep regret that at the last moment, we learn the news of the death of Mr. Thomas Taylor, Superintendent of the Hardman Street Institution, Liverpool. He was an ardent member of the Union, and his kindly and genial presence will be much missed at our gatherings. Our earnest sympathy goes to his widow in her great sorrow.

The Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union. A Meeting was held at the Offices of Gardner's Trust, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., on Saturday, the 6th November, 1909, at 12 noon. There were present:—Mr. H. J. Wilson (Chair), Miss Bainbrigge, Miss Taylor, Sir John Brickwood, Sir Francis Campbell, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mr. Stuart Johnson, Mr. Lempriere, Miss Burgess, and Mr. Guy Campbell. Mrs. Inglis wrote regretting her inability to be present.

The Chairman reported that he had interviewed the Registrar General, who was regretfully compelled to say it would be impossible to allow access to the census returns for the purpose of finding out the names and addresses of blind people, and that the definition of blindness was still under consideration.

It was agreed to recommend to the Council that the affiliation fee for Societies belonging to the Union shall be a minimum amount of half-a-guinea annually, and that those persons annually subscribing a minimum amount of one guinea shall be admitted to the Union as Members, and have the

privilege of attending and voting at all Council meetings. Those subscribing 5/- shall be admitted as Associates, with the privilege of attending Council meetings, but without the power of voting.

Miss Burgess reported that she had visited Chelmsford, and was successful in investigating the twenty-nine cases given to her from the Office, and adding thereto four new cases.

The question as to how meetings for the purpose of starting Societies were to be organised was discussed, and it was agreed that the method of procedure, if possible, should be to arrange for drawing-room meetings to which people should be invited by cards issued in the name of the hostess. It was further agreed if possible to try and have meetings held in the twelve Constabulary districts in Essex in successive weeks, so that the people of Essex would, for a period of three months, have the work of the Blind in their county continually brought to their attention.

In the unavoidable absence of General Codrington, Colonel Gilmour kindly attended and discussed with the Committee the question of a Central Fund. It appeared that the Association had not yet formulated a definite scheme, and the matter was therefore deferred until such scheme should be submitted in its entirety.

The Hon. Secretary reported that 89 fresh forms from the Chief Constable of East Sussex had been received.

The North-West Union. The first annual meeting of this Union was held at Bangor, on the 16th October, 1909. The Archdeacon of Chester, Chairman, presided. The report being presented, showed a steady progress in all the branches of Home Teaching, which have been ably carried on for so many years.

There are about 54 blind under 16; 375 between 16—60; 389 over 60. 603 of these are being cared for by outside Societies.

Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Secretary of Gardner's Trust, addressed the Meeting, and gave advice as to carrying on the management and working of the Union, especially in regard to sending children to schools.

Stockport and district has been handed over to the Union,

from the Northern Union, so as to help in the work for the Blind in the part of Cheshire beyond Stockport, especially Hyde and district, where the "Union" hopes soon to have visitors at work.

The Birkenhead Society and Workshop have been taken over by the Workshop and Home Teaching Society for the Blind in Cornwallis Street, Liverpool, and will, therefore, be unable to continue their affiliation after this year.

Leaflets have been sent to all the Medical Health Officers throughout the Union, urging the necessity of including the disease known as Ophthalmia Neonatorum in the list of diseases compulsorily notifiable, and also the desirability of enforcing the notification of Births Act (1907).

THE COLLEGE OF TEACHERS OF THE BLIND.

The First Annual Report of this College for the year ended December 31st, 1908, has been issued, and is an interesting document, inasmuch as it contains a copy of the Foundation Deed, and a succinct history of the formation of the College. The unavoidable delay in printing the report, as a booklet—it has been circulated many months as a leaflet—is due to the decision to include with it a copy of the Deed. We believe that the College has already done much, and will do still more, to raise the qualifications of the teachers in the schools for the Blind.

It is, therefore, gratifying to be able to report that a letter was received by the Registrar of the College from the Board of Education, dated 26th October, 1909, in which it was stated:—"With reference to your letter of the 26th February last, I am directed to inform you that since the Committee are prepared to fulfil the conditions laid down in the official letter of the 1st February last, the Board will recognise Examinations conducted by the College in accordance with those conditions for the purposes of Articles 16 (a) (iii), 16 (d) (ii) and 16 (e) of the Regulations applicable to Schools for Blind, Deaf, Defective and Epileptic Children."

The Board has also intimated that the Teachers who passed the 1908 and 1909 Examinations are recognised.

Mr. H. M. Taylor, M.A., F.R.S., and Mr. William Harris have been appointed Vice-Presidents of the College. Mr. Harris, with his long and well-known interest in the Blind, has kindly presented to the College 60 volumes dealing with the Blind. These form a valuable nucleus for the proposed library, and we much hope that similar gifts of any literature or information, or reports of Institutions in connection with the Blind, may be sent to the Registrar, so as to make the library a central one for reference and information on all questions affecting the Blind.

A Meeting of the Committee of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held at the Offices of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, S.W., on Saturday, 23rd October, 1909, at 10 a.m., when there were present:—Sir Francis and Lady Campbell, Miss L. Douglas-Hamilton, Miss Garaway, Rev. St. Clare Hill; Messrs. W. H. Illingworth, B. P. Jones, W. Littlewood, S. Maddocks, A. B. Norwood, A. P. Pearson, H. W. P. Pine, W. E. Taylor, Henry J. Wilson (Chairman), and Henry Stainsby (Hon. Registrar).

The Rev. T. Barnard and the Hon. A. M. Kinnaird wrote regretting their inability to be present.

It was moved by Mr. A. B. Norwood, seconded by Mr. S. Maddocks, and resolved that Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Chairman of the Committee; Rev. St. Clare Hill, Chairman of the Board of Examiners; Mr. Henry Stainsby, Hon. Registrar; and Mr. W. H. Illingworth, Secretary of the Board of Examiners be, and they are hereby recommended to the Council for Fellowships of the College.

It was moved by Mr. W. E. Taylor, seconded by Mr. W. Littlewood, and resolved that no names be submitted to the Council for election as Fellows unless the names have previously been proposed by the Fellows to the Committee and accepted by them.

It was moved by Mr. W. H. Illingworth, seconded by Mr. H. W. P. Pine, and resolved that inasmuch as the Fellows, subject to their election, recommended to the Committee the election of Sir Francis Campbell as a Fellow of the College

this Committee approves the same and hereby makes a similar recommendation to the Council.

It was moved by Mr. W. E. Taylor, seconded by Mr. A. Pearson, and resolved that the matter of issuing Certificates without examination be referred to a Sub-Committee, to consider and report to this Committee, and that a copy of their suggested scheme be sent out with the Agenda of the next Committee Meeting.

The report of the Board of Examiners was read and ordered to be entered on the Minutes,

It was moved by Mr. A. B. Norwood, seconded by Mr. W. P. Merrick, and resolved that the number of Examiners in 1910 be limited to five.

The following Examiners were appointed by ballot :—Miss Garaway, Rev. St. Clare Hill, M.A. ; Messrs. W. H. Illingworth, A. B. Norwood, M.A., A. P. Pearson, B.A.

It was decided to hold the next examination at Liverpool, the date being left in the hands of the Examiners.

The Hon. Registrar read a letter from the Board of Education of 24th September, with reference to the recognition of the successful candidates at the examination of 1909.

The Hon. Registrar reported that Mr. William Harris of Mill Gap, Eastbourne, had kindly presented the College with a number of books (60 volumes) dealing with the Blind. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Harris for his useful gift to the College.

It was moved by Mr. H. W. P. Pine, seconded by Miss L. Douglas-Hamilton, and resolved that subject to Mr. W. M. Stone being elected a member of the Council he be, and is hereby elected a member of this Committee.

The Foundation Deed of the College, drafted by Dr. Ranger, Hon. Solicitor of the College, was produced, suitably engrossed and bound, and a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. Ranger for the admirable manner in which he had prepared the Deed.

A meeting of the Council of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held at the Offices of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, S.W., on Saturday, 23rd October, at 12 noon.

Present :—Sir Francis and Lady Campbell, Miss E. W. Austin, Miss L. Douglas-Hamilton, Miss Everett, Miss Garaway, Mrs. Greg, Miss H. C. Russell, Miss B. Taylor; Messrs. Guy M. Campbell, C. M. Collingwood, W. H. Dixon, Joseph Hall, Rev. St. Clare Hill; Messrs. W. Hy. Illingworth, Stuart Johnson, B. P. Jones, W. Littlewood, S. Maddocks, Thos. H. Martin, A. B. Norwood, H. W. P. Pine, M. Priestley, W. M. Stone, W. H. Tate, W. E. Taylor, Henry J. Wilson (Chairman), and Henry Stainsby (Hon. Registrar).

Letters of regret were received from Miss Adler, Rev. T. Barnard, Mr. Arthur Brockhurst, Miss E. R. Scott, Sir Matthew Dodsworth, Miss I. M. Heywood, Hon. A. M. Kinnaird, Dr. Fletcher Little, Miss A. E. C. Moon; Messrs. W. Robertson, A. J. Story, J. C. Warren, and T. W. Hunter.

The Foundation Deed of the College was produced and inspected by the members, and a vote of thanks passed to Dr. Ranger.

The report of the Board of Examiners was submitted.

The resolutions passed at the Committee meeting in regard to the bestowal of fellowships were submitted and carried.

It was resolved to invite Mr. William Harris, and Mr. H. M. Taylor, M.A., F.R.S., to become Vice-Presidents.

The date of the Annual Meeting, and the choice of Chairman thereat, were left in the hands of the Chairman and Hon. Registrar, preference being given to a Saturday.

A similar report to that made by the Committee was given by the Hon. Registrar to the Council in regard to the recognition of the College by the Board of Education.

It was moved by Mr. Henry J. Wilson, seconded by Mr. W. H. Tate, and resolved that Mr. W. H. Thurman, General Superintendent and Secretary, Institution for the Blind, Birmingham, be, and is hereby elected a member of this Council.

It was moved by Mr. H. W. P. Pine, seconded by Mr. Walter H. Dixon, and resolved that Mr. W. M. Stone, Head Master of the Royal Blind Asylum and School, Edinburgh, be, and he is hereby elected a member of this Council and also of the Committee.

COMPLIMENTARY DINNER TO SIR FRANCIS AND LADY CAMPBELL.

This Dinner took place at the Holborn Restaurant on October 22nd, when 78 persons sat down, and everybody seemed determined to make it a pleasant and successful gathering. Much regret was felt for the absence of Lord Selby, who had promised to preside, and of whose subsequent death we were all so grieved to hear, but our best thanks are due to Lord Kinnaird, who at very short notice kindly consented to take the Chair. Another disappointment at the last moment was Sir William Mather's absence, caused by a sudden attack of illness. He, however, with kind thoughtfulness, dictated the speech he intended to make, and it was read by Lord Kinnaird. The following Associations and Societies for the Blind were represented :—The Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind (Tottenham Court Road); Barclay Workshop for Blind Women; Belfast Workshop; Birmingham Institution; Blind Tea Agency; Bolton Workshops; Bradford Institution; British and Foreign Blind Association; College of Teachers of the Blind; Day's Charity; Edinburgh Royal Blind Asylum and School; Exeter Institution; Gardner's Trust; Hants and Isle of Wight Institution; Henshaw's Blind Asylum; Home Teaching Society (London); Indigent Blind Visiting Society; Leatherhead School; Linden Lodge School; Midland Union of Agencies; North of England Union; North Wales Society; North West Union; North London Homes; Nottingham Institution; Oxford Home Teaching Society; Poor Adult Blind Society; Royal Normal College; Sheffield School; Society for Teaching the Blind (Swiss Cottage); Swansea Institution; Wakefield Workshop; Workshops for the Blind (Waterloo Road); and York School. There were also present Mr. Yoshimoto, who has been sent by the Japanese Government to report on the education and instruction of the Blind in the United Kingdom, and Mr. B. P. Jones and Miss R. Petty, superintendents of the special schools under the London County Council.

Letters regretting their inability to be present were received from the Hon. Secretaries of the Hull Institution, Kent Work-

shop, London and Provincial Blind Tea Agency, Midland Union, Moon's Embossing Society, Preston Homes, Royal Victoria School, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, West London Workshop, Worcester Blind College; and also from Lord Aberdeen, Miss I. M. Heywood, Dr. Ranger, Mr. S. Gedge, Dr. Hartley (Leeds), and Miss Moon. And at the dinner, telegrams were received from the Archdeacon of Westminster, Miss Alice Armitage, and Mr. Walford of the Reading Society.

Grace having been said after dinner by the Rev. Barton R. V. Mills, the Chairman, Lord Kinnaird, proposed the health of the King, Patron of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, which was heartily responded to. After that his Lordship proposed the health of the Queen and Royal Family and said:—"Her Majesty Queen Victoria became a Patron of the Royal Normal College during the first year, and always took an active interest in the work. Twice the pupils were invited to Windsor, and on each occasion they gave a Concert. After the Concert Her Majesty came forward and said: 'I should like to shake hands with you all, but as that is impossible, I will shake hands with all the little girls in the front row.' Those who were present will never forget her gracious words and sweet voice. On the last visit to Windsor, the pupils were accompanied by the Crystal Palace Orchestra and their conductor, Sir August Manns. Her Majesty also contributed to the funds of the College. King Edward VII., when Prince of Wales, was present with the Princess of Wales at a Prize Festival in 1879, and on that occasion spoke as follows:—"I entirely agree with every word which has fallen from the Archbishop of York and Canon Barry, in urging that an Institution of this kind is one well worthy of support by the community at large. There is no doubt that amongst the many misfortunes which may happen, under the will of God, to any of us, none can be greater than the loss of sight. It is therefore our duty to help those who find themselves in that unfortunate predicament. At this College, by careful tuition, you give them the means to enable them in setting out in life, not to be thrown on the care of relatives and friends, but to be able to shift for themselves.'" This toast was also heartily responded to.

Lord Kinnaird, after referring in sympathetic words to the unavoidable absence of Lord Selby and Sir William Mather through illness, read Sir William Mather's speech, which he had dictated as, unfortunately, he was unable to deliver it personally :—"I esteem it a great honour to have been asked to propose the toast of Sir Francis and Lady Campbell on this occasion, and deeply regret that I cannot do so in person. The remarkable career of Francis Campbell, is at once an inspiration and example. It is unique in many of its features. Born an American, he had the advantage of an early training superior to anything this country of ours could offer, especially to those labouring under the deprivation of sight. Gifted with musical genius, he conceived the purpose very early in life of using that divine art as the medium through which the Blind might see their way to self-supporting employment all through life.

Having proved in his native land that his methods for educating and training the Blind were of universal application, he conceived the idea of assisting the Blind in Old England to enjoy the blessings which had been bestowed on their fellow-sufferers in New England.

Full of confidence, enthusiasm, and the missionary spirit, this young Dr. Campbell, with his most devoted wife and their little child "Guy" (now the famous athlete and Vice-Principal of the Normal College) landed in England in the early seventies of last century. He came prepared to stake his future and every dollar he had saved, in order to bring hope and deliverance to those of our countrymen who were bound in affliction as he had been, till he realized that the loss of sight was not necessarily the loss of self-reliance, self-support and any permanent disadvantage if the education and training were available which he had found so successful.

Full of these high aspirations, Dr. Campbell made himself known to a few people in Manchester, Leeds, and London, from whom he obtained much encouragement ; but he sacrificed all his means and several years of his valuable life before success began to dawn, which resulted in the establishing of that

splendid Institution, the "Normal College for the Blind," of which all of us are, I trust, devoted friends.

Perhaps no one can testify to the heroic self-sacrifice of Dr. Campbell in the early years of his struggle here so fully as I can. Had he not possessed that faith which is symbolized by the power to move mountains, hundreds, nay thousands of our countrymen might have sat in the darkness and shadow of death, groping literally through life, hopeless and useless.

The methods of the Campbell scheme of education for the Blind are adapted to meet any case, when the mind is sound. I think this a unique example of a combination of qualities in one man, which are not as a rule co-existent and rarely co-equal.

These qualities of genius, enthusiasm and common sense, each in a high degree, have been manifested in Dr. Campbell's long life, which he has devoted wholly to the emancipation of the Blind in a country not his own.

He came over here to a kindred people, however, and not even in his native land could he have achieved as much or have earned so much gratitude, for our Blind suffered more than the like class in America.

Even at this hour the neglected condition of the blind, deaf and dumb, is a disgrace not only to Government of either side of politics, but it is a great reflection on the British Parliament.

Dr. Campbell arrived 40 years ago, determined to establish an Institution which should prove that the Blind ought not to be denied the opportunities provided for sighted people—and he has proved his case. But it has required his whole life. He has given to us what his own country might reasonably have begrudged, were it not that during that long period the relations between America and Great Britain have become so intimate and cordial, that we can interchange an institution and our citizens even without jealousy.

So it comes about that the American citizen, Dr. Francis Campbell, has become the British citizen, "Sir Francis Campbell, LL.D." and he is equally honoured by both countries.

In proposing the toast of Sir Francis Campbell's and Lady

Campbell's health and happiness through long years to come, I venture to express the hope that renewed efforts will be made by all who know what a mighty work they have done for us, to place the Royal Normal College for the Blind in a strong position and permanently free from debt.

To this end we must move the British Government in the future, when its coffers are full to overflowing from the great harvest which will be reaped from the successful citizens who toil and spin, as well as from those who neither toil nor spin, to supplement the benefactions of those who have erected a new heaven and a new earth for the Blind at Upper Norwood.

This, and this only, will make our distinguished guest and now fellow-citizen really happy, and enable him to enjoy the full measure of reward from his noble and unselfish life.

I give you the toast of Sir Francis and Lady Campbell."

Mr. Henry J. Wilson:—"My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is said that an Alpine climber on one occasion, on reaching the highest ridge of the Matterhorn, chalked up in large letters "This hill is dangerous for cyclists," and I feel that in being asked to second this toast, I have been placed, metaphorically speaking, on this high ledge from which, if I am not careful, I shall find myself glissading quietly, though rapidly, into the ravines below.

If I consulted the feelings of those present, and my own wishes, I should like to dot the i's and cross the t's in the excellent speech we have just listened to from Sir William Mather, and then sit down, but duty and a friendship with Sir Francis Campbell for getting well on for 30 years, persuade me to say a few words in support of the toast.

We who are interested in the Blind heartily congratulate Sir Francis on the honour conferred on him by the King, not only as an honour thoroughly deserved by the Doctor, but also as a recognition of the work which is being carried on for the benefit of the Blind.

Honours such as that conferred on Sir Francis for philanthropy are all too seldom conferred, and therefore all the more valued and appreciated. As a rule, they are too much confined to the narrow groove of the navy, the army, the civil service, and

politics, whereas I venture to think they have never been conferred on more worthy recipients, and with more unanimous public approval than on the late Sir George Williams, Sir John Kirk, and our guest to-night.

As Secretary of Gardner's Trust, it has been my pleasure and privilege to have been in constant touch with Sir Francis for over a quarter of a century, and perhaps few men have had such an opportunity as I have, for seeing the inner working of the Royal Normal College, and especially the part taken by its principal.

The success of that College has been phenomenal, and it is due mainly to one man and his valued consort.

Nearly 40 years ago there was a man in the prime of life, full of zeal, energy, and anxiety to better the condition of the Blind in England, but the means to buy the golden plough to prepare the ground for receiving the seed were not his.

This was provided by those well-known philanthropists the late Duke of Westminster and Dr. Armitage, and the grease to make the plough go easily has largely been provided by the Gardner's Trust, but what I wish to point out to you is the fact that our guest put his hand to the plough, and spite of difficulties which have seemed insuperable to others, has never looked back, and like St. Paul, has always ploughed in hope.

In my opinion, his success in training the Blind is attributable to his personal interest in the individual student. Many a time has he come to my office to discuss the merits or demerits of a particular Gardner scholar, and to consider what was the best course to pursue.

And here, parenthetically, I would remark that Sir Francis is always most anxious to give every pupil the fullest and fairest trial, and nothing gives him more sorrow than to have one who does not realize, and does not make use of, the great opportunities offered, and to have to suggest that his scholarship should be withdrawn. To obtain appointments for his students on leaving College, nothing stands in his way, and few know how many times he has rushed off at a moment's notice on hearing of a suitable post, to press the claims of a student, whether it be in the North of England or Scotland, or even Ireland, but I

must take care what I say about that country, as I see my friend Mr. Hewitt, the representative from Belfast, has his eye on me. On such an occasion distance is no impediment—John O'Groats and the Land's End are but Metropolitan suburbs to the Doctor. This, my Lord, is not a terminological inexactitude, but a stubborn fact not known as much as it ought to be.

In conclusion, I wish to say that it appears to me that he has set before himself service and co-operation with God as his highest ideal and ambition—to do something, to be something as long as he lives, not selfishly for himself, but unselfishly for others, and especially for those similarly afflicted—in fact to help to make the world better and happier for his life. As Ruskin says: 'Every noble life leaves the fibre of it interwoven for ever, in the work of the world.' The Doctor's philanthropic acts and kind assistance by word and deed will never be known on this side the grave, but for years to come the Royal Normal College will stand as a monument to his brilliant initiative, and as an eloquent testimony of his ability and skill.

I must also add a few words of congratulation to her who shares her husband's honour. All who know anything of the College are cognisant of the sympathetic and practical assistance she has rendered to her husband by her quiet, tactful and convincing method. She has indeed been "eyes to the Blind."

In a correspondent's letter to me, our guest was once described as that Grand Old Lion of Norwood, and I feel sure that I am only echoing the wishes of all here present when I say that I hope our old lion may go on roaring for many years on behalf of the Blind, and the lioness also, if she do roar, but I am not a good student of Natural History.

My Lord, ladies and gentlemen, I ask you to rise and drink to the health of Sir Francis and Lady Campbell."

Everybody then rose and the toast was drunk with the greatest enthusiasm and earnest good wishes.

The following letter to Mr. Wilson was read from Mr. A. W. Hendry, Manager of the Royal Institution for the Blind, Brougham Place, North Adelaide:—"In the July number of 'The Blind' you state: 'It has been arranged to give Sir Francis and Lady Campbell a complimentary Dinner at

the Holborn Restaurant,' and as we on this side of the world would like to join in congratulating Sir Francis and Lady Campbell on the well merited honour conferred upon them for the splendid work which they unitedly have accomplished for the Blind, will you, on behalf of the Board of Management of this Institution, and of the Blind of South Australia, convey sincere and heartfelt congratulation to Sir Francis and Lady Campbell.

It is needless for me to state that the name of Dr. Campbell is well known amongst the Blind on this side of the world, and it was with a thrill of pleasure that we learnt from the cable messages that the leader of the Blind had been signally recognised and honoured."

Mr. T. Yoshimoto said :—"I am most glad to have the opportunity and privilege of reading two short messages of congratulation and gratitude to Sir Francis Campbell from the two principal workers for the Blind in Japan. The first is from Mr. Konishi, Director of the National School for the Blind and Deaf, in Tokyo :—

'The honour of Knighthood will not only shine on you, but will also be reflected on all workers for the Blind throughout the world. I esteem Haüy, Braille and you, Sir Francis, as the three great lights of the Blind world. May you be long preserved and your influence remain for ever.'

The second is from Mr. Torii, Director of the Kyoto Blind and Deaf School, which is the oldest school for the Blind in Japan :—

'We who have long been receiving your guidance and inspiration, greatly rejoice to hear the news of your being honoured by your King, which means high recognition of your work. May the blessing of God rest on you for ever.'

I, myself, most heartily wish that health and prosperity may be always with you, Sir Francis and Lady Campbell, not only for your own sakes, not only for the sake of your glorious life work, but also for the sake of your fellow-workers all over the world, who so much need your inspiration and advice."

Sir Francis Campbell said in reply :—"Lord Kinnaird, Ladies and Gentlemen, while we all regret the absence of Lord

Selby and the cause which prevents his Lordship from presiding, it is a pleasure to have his place filled by so old a friend as Lord Kinnaird. In the early days of the College his father and mother took a deep interest in its establishment and welfare, and that interest has been continued by his Lordship. I welcome you all this evening not simply as friends, but as brothers and sisters, and highly appreciate the honour you have done us, in gathering from all parts of the United Kingdom to again offer your congratulations. And we are especially grateful to the gentlemen who have organised and carried to such a successful conclusion this Complimentary Dinner. I am sure you all know Lady Campbell and I value the title, not so much for ourselves, as for the public recognition by His Gracious Majesty, King Edward, of the cause of the Blind.

On an occasion like this, my mind naturally goes back to my first meeting with Dr. Armitage in 1871. Just before I left Berlin, a member of the English Church in that city gave me a letter of introduction to Dr. Armitage. The night of my arrival in London, a gentleman in the coffee-room of the hotel asked me to accompany him to a meeting of the Indigent Blind Visiting Society. I was surprised to find Dr. Armitage at the meeting, and he invited me to call on him the next day. We had a long and earnest talk, and he urged me to remain in England for a year and introduce some of the methods of training which had proved successful in America. Although my passage across the Atlantic was engaged, and I had expected to sail in two days, I deferred my departure for a time. To arouse a new interest in the education of the Blind, I visited Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and other towns. The interest which was shown in these towns, particularly in Glasgow by our late Chairman, the Rt. Hon. James A. Campbell, Sir Peter Coates, and Mr. Wm. Auchincloss Arrol, and the support received from the Duke of Westminster and other philanthropists, resulted in the establishment of the Royal Normal College for the Blind. From the time the College was established till his death, Dr. Armitage was a generous benefactor, and after his death his widow and daughter, also Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Armitage, contributed liberally to its support.

We remember with deep gratitude the kindly interest which, as Patron, the late Queen Victoria always took in the Institution, and that interest has been continued by their Gracious Majesties, the King and Queen, and other members of the Royal Family. In June, 1907, the King and Queen, accompanied by the Prince and Princess of Wales, Princess Victoria, and the Landgräf of Hesse, attended a concert and gymnastic display at the Albert Hall.

I wish there were time to mention the many other friends who have helped me in my work, but foremost among them is the Committee of the Gardner Trust. Their Scholarships have enabled us to receive and train many boys and girls who are now out in the world, self-supporting men and women. But for their liberal aid, it would have been impossible to have carried on the Royal Normal College.

In thanking those by whom we have been assisted all these years, I wish to include the Executive Committee and Staff of the College, both past and present. We have always had their loyal support and able assistance. And on the Staff I would mention specially our Hon. Medical Officers, one of whom, our Hon. Oculist, Mr. Grimsdale, is with us this evening.

I will now ask Lady Campbell to read a few notes in regard to the opening of the College and its development."

Lady Campbell said:—"Lord Kinnaird, Ladies and Gentlemen, before reading the notes, I wish to thank you not only for your presence here this evening, but also for the warm-hearted letters of congratulation we received.

Although we replied to them all, it was impossible to express in writing the gratitude we felt for the note of personal friendship which they contained.

"On a cold snowy evening, March 1st, 1872, there arrived at King's Cross the first two pupils who were sent from Leeds by Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Armitage. My son, Mr. Guy Campbell, then a little boy, went with me to meet the two lads. After a thorough course of training they returned to Leeds and obtained good appointments with Ramsden and Walker. Thirty years later, on the evening of March 1st, Lady Campbell received a photograph of a stout comfortable looking gentleman, but she

could not trace much resemblance to any former pupil. Turning it over, she read, 'George Whittaker, born March 9th, 1861; entered the Royal Normal College, March 1st, 1872.' We were gratified that he had remembered the anniversary. As our pupils increased, our quarters at Paxton Terrace became too limited but they were not as limited as our Braille library, which consisted of 'John Gilpin,' 'Poor Susan,' and what one of our boys persisted in calling 'Nanny-goats of dogs,' otherwise 'Anecdotes.'

The School was located at Norwood that the pupils might enjoy the musical advantages of the Crystal Palace, whose orchestra then ranked first in England, and where concerts were given every day. And here I would like to acknowledge our indebtedness to the Authorities of the Crystal Palace for the kindness they have always shown in allowing the pupils at all their concerts either free or at a nominal charge. Owing to the liberality of the Concert Agents in sending tickets, the students are able to hear many of the best Recitals and Orchestral Concerts in London. If you wish your students to attain a high standard of musical excellence, you must surround them with a musical atmosphere—this indirect instruction is needed for the full cultivation of their musical faculties.

We soon removed from Paxton Terrace, and in fixing on a permanent site I was careful to secure ample playgrounds, which are as important in the development of blind children as school-rooms and educational appliances. For the purchase of our present freehold ground we were largely indebted to the generous aid of the late Duke of Westminster, Dr. Armitage, and Mr. Henry Gardner. Long before the main building was finished a Gymnasium was erected, and from time to time we have increased our facilities for outdoor sports and exercise. I need not enlarge upon it, for you all know the value I place upon the physical training of the Blind. The letters from old pupils show that they attribute their independence and power of self-reliance in after life in large measure to the activity and courage gained in the physical department.

I would like to mention two departments added later. In 1882, through the help of the Gardner Trust, we were able to

provide separate houses and playgrounds for the little boys and girls, and opened a Kindergarten and Preparatory Department. While living entirely apart from the older pupils, the children enjoy many of the advantages of the seniors, as the Library, Gymnasium, and Swimming-bath, as well as Lectures and Recitals.

In 1895, the Board of Education recognised our Normal Department for training blind teachers as the Smith Training College; in 1896, the first Queen's Scholarship Examination was held, and two years later the first Examination for the Teacher's Certificate. Through the generosity of the Hon. W. F. D. Smith we were able to purchase another house with additional grounds for the Training College, and it was named after his father, one of the first Trustees. Each year a few have taken the Certificate Examination, but the prejudice against the employment of blind school-teachers, leads us to keep the numbers small. I am convinced that there are some subjects in which properly trained blind teachers have an advantage, and secure better results than sighted teachers, and there should be a combination of the two on the Staff of any Blind School.

Early in the life of the College, I realised that if our pupils were to take a worthy position among their fellow musicians they must be brought before the London public on the Concert platform, and I feel it was a notable day in the history of the education of the Blind when our first Orchestral Concert was given at St. James' Hall in 1877. The Crystal Palace Orchestra was engaged, and Sir August Manns kindly conducted. And here let me express the great indebtedness of the College to him. He conducted on many occasions in after years, acted as Examiner, and was always ready to advise and help in every possible way. At the first Concert the pupils were assisted by Professor Joachim and Mr. Frits Hartvigson. One item on the programme excited great interest among musicians; that was the first performance in England of Wagner's 'Walküren Ritt.' Afterward Herr von Bülow and Professor Klindworth conducted Concerts, and the former referred to Master Schweir as 'My grandson in piano playing, a pupil of my pupil, Mr. Hartvigson.' In the notices which followed these Concerts, they were

criticised on their own merit, and not as those of a Blind School. The fact that the pupils appeared in Concerts conducted by such eminent musicians, aided by the first artistes of the day, finally induced the public to realise that the Blind when properly trained and given the same opportunities of instruction as the seeing, are entitled to an equal chance of employment.

Through the earnest effort of many workers there has been a great advance all along the line in the last thirty years, but I trust we are as yet only at the beginning of our efforts to improve the condition of the Blind. England moves slowly in matters of education, but she moves surely, and I am confident the Government will provide shortly Secondary training for the Blind.

The Unions that have been formed will not cease their efforts, till there is ample accommodation for those who can work and wish to work, and I hope that liberal pension-schemes, either Government or Charitable, will provide for those who are incapacitated by age or other reasons from self-support.

I will close with a short quotation from a paper read before the Congress of Hygiene and Demography, in 1891.

‘Even when Government has provided Elementary and Secondary education for the youthful blind, and Technical training for those over school age, much will remain to be done which must be undertaken by a National Co-operative Society composed of all existing Agencies for the Blind. The Blind, whether educated for the Church, trained as teachers, musicians, pianoforte tuners, or for any other trade or occupation, require assistance at the outset. They need help in finding suitable employment, recommendations for establishing a connection, pecuniary assistance in providing outfits of books, tools, instruments, etc. ; help in the selection and purchase of the best materials at the lowest wholesale rates, in the sale of their manufactured goods in the best markets, and if overtaken by reverses, judicious and timely help towards a fresh start. This will furnish a grand field of labour for all branches of the National Society. The sick and aged will also be moved to the sunny side of the hill, and the blind beggar will disappear from our streets and highways.’

It rests with the younger men and women who are not on the shady side of seventy to carry on the education and training of the Blind. Maintain a high standard in every department of your work. The Blind cannot afford to do work which is not the best of its kind. Go forward with courage, and I am hopeful that the future will see a large amount of the prejudice which now exists against the Blind, and the barriers to their employment broken down."

The Rev. St. Clare Hill, in expressing thanks to the Chairman for presiding, referred to the serious indisposition of Lord Selby, and thought it would be the unanimous wish of all present that a letter of sympathy should be sent. They might, however, congratulate themselves on having been so fortunate as to secure Lord Kinnaird as a substitute. His Lordship, as was well known, was keenly interested in every philanthropic movement in the land—to enumerate only a few (1) The Young Men's Christian Association; (2) The Blind (*a*) as Trustee of Gardner's Trust, (*b*) as Vice-President of the College of Teachers of the Blind, (*c*) President of the Indigent Blind Visiting Society, (*d*) Member of Council of the Royal Normal College, and (*e*) Member of the Governing Body of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, Worcester.

Mr. Hill concluded by proposing the following resolution—

"That sincere thanks be accorded to Lord Kinnaird for his kindness in presiding to-night."

In seconding the resolution, Mr. Stainsby felt that he had very little to add to what had been said by Mr. Hill, but took the opportunity of testifying his satisfaction that the Treasurership of the College of Teachers had been undertaken by the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, and trusted that both Lord Kinnaird and Sir Francis and Lady Campbell might be long spared to continue their noble and enthusiastic work.

The resolution was carried with acclamation, and Lord Kinnaird briefly responded.

Thus ended a memorable function, organised to do honour to those well known, greatly respected, hard-working, and most successful teachers of the Blind, Sir Francis and Lady Campbell.

The Blind.

VOL. III.

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APRIL 20TH, 1910.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before June 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. The following announcement has been made in "The Times" and other newspapers :—

"The Court of the Clothworkers' Company has unanimously resolved to present the freedom of the company, *honoris causâ*, to Mr. Stuart Johnson, Chairman of Day's Trust, and of the Society for Granting Annuities to the Poor Adult Blind, in appreciation of the signal services rendered by his late father, Mr. Edmund Johnson, and now so ably continued by him, in connection with the welfare of the Blind, a branch of philanthropy in which the Company is greatly interested."

We heartily congratulate Mr. Johnson on this special honour conferred on him. Mr. Johnson is at present busily engaged in bringing out a new edition of his "Annuities to the Blind," at the special request of many of those interested in the Blind.

2. Mr. W. Littlewood, who has been Headmaster of the School for the Blind at Wavertree for many years, has been appointed superintendent of the School for the Blind, Hardman Street, Liverpool, in the room of Mr. Thomas Taylor, deceased ;

and Mr. Littlewood has also had the Wavertree school placed under his superintendence, so that the two schools are now under one and the same management.

Mr. Archibald A. Cowan, who last year took the certificate of the College of Teachers of the Blind with Honours in Theoretical Braille, Arithmetic and Practical Teaching, has been appointed Headmaster of the Wavertree school in Mr. Littlewood's place.

3. In January, Leslie Kenny and John Lawson, of the Royal Normal College, passed the Fellowship Examination of the Royal College of Organists. There were 97 candidates, of whom only 15 passed, and these two young men were among the successful 15. Leslie Kenny also passed the Licentiate Examination of the Royal Academy of Music, in Singing. Edward Austin passed the Associate Examination of the Royal College of Organists. J. Lawson and E. Austin are Gardner Scholars, and Miss Alice Armitage has generously provided for Kenny's musical studies.

4. In a paper on Organ Music, recently read by Dr. Charlton Palmer, Organist of Canterbury Cathedral, he criticised most of the music written for the organ by English composers of the present day. He then added, "Some fine work has been done, and I hope may continue to be done, by such writers as Basil Harwood, Wolstenholme and Hollins, at their best."

5. The next examination to be held by the College of Teachers of the Blind, will take place at Liverpool, in July, and the syllabus for 1910 can be obtained from the Hon. Registrar, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W. Candidates must give two months' notice of their intention to sit at the examination. The College is now recognised by the Board of Education under section 16 (a) (iii.), 16 (d) (ii.), and 16 (e) of the Regulations applicable to Schools for the Blind.

6. An interesting book, entitled, "History of the Education of the Blind," has recently been published by Mr. W.

H. Illingworth, F.C.T.B., the well-known Superintendent of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, and one of the examiners for the College of Teachers of the Blind. It is published by Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston & Co., and the price is 5/-, by post 5/4. In the compass of 163 pages, past and present information about the education of the Blind has been brought together so that readers can obtain easily what they desire to know on any specific points. So many full reviews of the book have already appeared that it seems unnecessary for us to deal with it at any length, but we will only advise those who have not already read it, to do so. We notice on page 94 that the Principal of the Royal Normal College is called Sir Francis *F.* Campbell, and on page 119 the wrong date is given for Dr. Ranger obtaining his D.C.L. But it is easy to criticise, and in our opinion these slips are small matters compared with the regrettable absence of Mr. Alfred Hirst's name and biography in the list of eminent blind people. His name does not appear in the index, and apparently only once in the book, viz.: in the footnote on page 99. The splendid work done at Whitby by Mr. Hirst, where every blind person is being assisted according to his need, and in the best possible way, is worthy of all praise, and is known of all. Mr. Hirst, though now a great invalid, is organising the work for the Blind in Saffron Walden, as he did at Whitby. Few blind men have worked harder, and on better and more helpful lines for his fellow sufferers than Mr. Hirst.

7. Among the latest publications by the British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W., we notice one volume, large size, interpointed Braille, containing extracts, carefully made, from Sir C. W. Watson's "Life of Major General Sir C. W. Wilson, R.E., K.C.B., &c., &c." All the important incidents of his life are given in a connected form. The price is 3/6. It is a curious turn in the wheel of affairs that Major Wilson, who has recently been appointed Governor of Khartum, is the son of the father who, 25 years ago, essayed to reach the town in a steamer no larger than one of the Thames steamboats, in the hope of finding Gordon alive, and was

received with a heavy fire from thousands of Arabs, one bullet breaking his field-glass in his hand!

8. Another Musical Magazine for the Blind has been published, called "The Braille Musical Magazine." It is issued bi-monthly (on the 20th of the month), and published by the British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, W. The price is 1/- post free, 6/- per annum; abroad, 9/- per annum post free. We are not surprised to hear that already there are very many subscribers for the magazine—in fact quite a run on it—when we know that it is issued by those well-known blind musicians, Messrs. Platt, Warrilow, and Wolstenholme, to whom reference has frequently been made in these pages, and whose musical capabilities are well known far beyond the limits of the "blind" world.

9. With the cordial approval of Miss Armitage, and at the request of the Council of the British and Foreign Blind Association, Mr. Henry Stainsby, and Mr. Henry J. Wilson have undertaken to bring up to date Dr. Armitage's well-known and standard book, "The Education and Employment of the Blind." This responsible work is being put in hand at once, but there must of necessity be a lapse of many months before it is complete.

10. Miss C. Heberden, Brasenose College, Oxford, has the following back numbers of "The Blind," any of which she would send to anyone who liked to apply to her. No. 19, 21-25, 27, 30-33, 35, 37-48.

11. On March 7th, at 103, Lancaster Gate, was held, by the kindness of Mrs. Turton Norton, a Conference which, as far as we know, was the first of its kind. Those taking part are all engaged in transcribing books into Braille, in connection with the National Lending Library for the Blind. Miss Lawrance, one of the first two ladies elected on the London County Council, was in the Chair.

Mr. Hamley, Chairman of the Library, paid a grateful tribute to the voluntary writers, to whose labours this Library of

some 13,000 volumes, is a worthy monument. There were about 120 writers present out of the total of 391, and this is a very good attendance, when so many live at a long distance. Speeches by the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Eaton Lascelles, and by Miss B. Griffith, were followed by a general discussion. It is hoped that the meeting will bear good fruit in raising still higher the standard of the Library's writers, and in quickening interest in the excellent work carried on there under the unceasing energy of the Secretary, Miss E. W. Austin. The Library has now deservedly reached a high and leading position in the "Blind" world, is thoroughly well managed, and is deserving of more support when we remember that it is *the National Library*.

12. It is with the greatest pleasure that we are able to announce that on January 26th the Chester City Council adopted, with the sanction of the Local Government Board, the proposal to make ophthalmia of the new-born a notifiable disease. When are other cities going to wake up on this terribly important subject?

13. A Meeting for the Blind and their friends will be held at Cheltenham on Saturday, the 14th May, in connection with the Third British Esperanto Congress, which will take place in that town (from the 14th to the 16th inclusive). Tickets are 1/- each and may be had on applying to Miss H. E. Boord, 8, Stanley Gardens, London, W., or in Cheltenham by applying to the Local Organizer. Cheap week-end tickets may be obtained from almost every town in the United Kingdom. Intending visitors requiring accommodation should state their requirements in envelopes marked "Accommodation," to Mr. A. Kenyon (Local Organizer), Oscarville, Hayward's Road, Cheltenham.

14. An Esperanto Section has lately been opened at the Incorporated National Lending Library for the Blind, 125, Queen's Road, Bayswater, London, W. Volunteer Writers—both blind and seeing—are greatly needed, as the demand for Esperanto books is at present far in excess of supply. Esperanto is easy to learn, and uncontracted Braille is used. Please apply to

Miss H. E. Boord (Hon. Sec. of the Esperanto Section),
8, Stanley Gardens, London, W.

15. A meeting of the Committee appointed to organise the Conference to be held next year at Exeter, took place on Saturday, March 12th, at 11 a.m., at the offices of Gardner's Trust, when there were present: Miss Austin, Miss Wright, Mr. Frew Bryden, Sir F. J. Campbell, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. S. Maddocks, F. J. Munby, H. W. P. Pine, H. E. Platt, A. Siddall, H. Stainsby, W. Stone, H. J. Wilson (Chairman), and Councillor C. M. Collingwood (Hon. Secretary); Lady Campbell and Mr. Norwood were present as visitors. Apologies for absence were received from Mr. W. H. Dixon and Rev. N. F. McNeile.

In addition to the four subjects mentioned in the January number (page 273), it was agreed that papers should be read on "Libraries for the Blind," by Miss Austin, and on "A retrospect of the more recent musical education of the Blind, and suggestions as to the future," by Mr. H. Warrilow. Mr. Stone having expressed a strong wish not to write the paper on "Women's Interests," Miss E. Wright was asked to kindly take his place.

It was further agreed that one session should be devoted to a discussion on the report of the Committee on the better and more general employment of the Blind. It was reported that Mr. Alrik Lundberg, of Stockholm, had consented to read a paper on "The General Pensioning of the Blind, &c.," and Mr. A. Mell, of Vienna, on "The Physiognomy of the Blind."

It was agreed that a preliminary circular should be issued shortly, and that there should be no session on Saturday, July 9th, on which day excursions will be arranged.

A letter from Captain Pierson Webber, asking whether it could be arranged for him to give a demonstration on poultry farming, was referred to the local Committee.

The Sub-Committee appointed at the last meeting to consider what distinction should be drawn between "delegates," "representatives," and "members," presented their report, which was approved, viz: (a) that "delegates" shall be nominees of

Institutions and Societies for the Blind, which subscribe not less than 21/- each. Not more than three nominees of each Institution shall have power to vote; (*b*) that "members" shall be persons associated with work for the Blind, who subscribe not less than 5/-, and that they have power to vote; and (*c*) that the term "representative" be discarded. All decisions as to eligibility of delegates or members to be decided by the Conference Committee.

The Chairman and Hon. Secretary were authorised to make enquiries about suitable blind persons to give the public lecture, and to report to the Committee at the next meeting.

The arrangements for the Concert were left in the hands of Messrs. Platt, Souter, Warrilow, and Wolstenholme.

The draft proposal, by Mr. Guy Campbell, as to the formation of a British Physical Association for the Blind, was referred on the motion of the Rev. St. Clare Hill, seconded by Mr. Pine, to a meeting of the Superintendents and Heads of Institutions then present, with power to add to their number, to bring up a report at the next meeting.

The general arrangements of the Conference were tentatively entered on a skeleton schedule.

The fixing of the date and place of next meeting was left to the Chairman and Hon. Secretary to arrange.

16. Last October we visited a small private school for blind children, kept by Miss A. E. Roberts, at Lake Tower, Rhyl, North Wales, and were much pleased with all we saw. Miss Roberts was educated at the Royal Normal College, and is assisted in the school by her mother. The first pupil was a boy sent by Sir F. J. Campbell, and required individual attention. After having been at the school for three years he made such excellent progress that he returned to the College. Other children have been sent from London, Liverpool, &c., and all have made great improvement both physically and mentally when specially looked after in the bracing Rhyl air. The sea is a source of great enjoyment to the children, and they much enjoy a walk along the sands. The fees vary according to the

circumstances of the children, and full information can be obtained from Miss Roberts.

Another special school where excellent work is carried on by the individual care of mentally defective, backward, and delicate children, is the one at 48 and 49, Kenilworth Road, St. Leonard's-on-Sea, under Mrs. Meiklejon, as principal. This School is certified by the Board of Education, and Miss Meiklejon is a trained and certificated teacher. The houses stand on high ground near the sea and public gardens, and are fitted with every convenience. Children of all ages, both boys and girls, are received, and the fees are from £35 a year. For any further particulars application should be made to the principal.

17. The 48th anniversary of the opening of the Bradford Institution for the Blind was celebrated on November 11th by a Tea and Entertainment. Mr. Priestman, Chairman of the Institution, presided, and was supported by the Lord Mayor, who complimented the Committee on the good work being done by the Institution. Mr. Priestman said, in his remarks, that in the first ten months of the year the sales had realized £10,000, and that the amount paid in wages for the same period amounted to £2,256. There were 95 blind men and women at the Institution, 15 at the Men's Home, and 9 at the Women's Home, making a total of 119. Mr. W. Sullivan, who has become blind after an active life of travel, gave an address, and made an eloquent appeal on behalf of the Institution.

18. The Annual Entertainments at the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind began on February 21st and ended on March 4th. The visitors numbered 2,190 for the eight evenings, or an average of just over 270, and the sales of goods realized £130 5s. 3d., while the total of the collections after the entertainments amounted to £11 14s. 10d. These results are looked upon as very satisfactory, and it was surprising to note the interest the visitors displayed in the entertainments generally and also during their inspection of the Workshops. On each evening

a Member of the Committee was present and addressed the audience on the work done by the Institution.

19. The Committee of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind have drawn up new rules and regulations in regard to the augmentation of blind workers' wages, which came into force on 1st inst. Great care and skill have been bestowed in arranging the increases in the mat, basket, and brush departments respectively. It seems an improvement on any scales we have previously seen. Excellent rules and regulations have also been drawn up for the proposed sick club for blind workers.

20. The Barclay Workshop for Blind Women, 246, Edgware Road, W., the chief industry of which is the manufacture of dress material on hand looms, has started a new system of selling the goods. Honorary Agents are appointed in different parts of the country, who are supplied with patterns at regular intervals, and they obtain orders and post them up to London. Ladies living in the country and willing to undertake this work are greatly needed, and if any lady who reads this notice would kindly communicate with Miss Nicholson, 11, Gloucester Square, London, W., expressing her willingness to become an Honorary Agent, a book of patterns will be forwarded.

21. The British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W., has just printed and published a Primer on Grade II., for the use of sighted persons who are desirous of learning Braille. This important work has been prepared by Miss Laura Douglas-Hamilton, a member of the Council of the British and Foreign Blind Association, and Founder, and Hon. Secretary of the "Eyes to the Blind" Society, to whom we offer our cordial congratulations for the admirable manner in which she has carried out what must have been a laborious task. The price of the Primer is 1/-; post free, 1/2.

22. To celebrate the completion of the first hundred years of the British and Foreign Bible Society's work in Swansea, the Committee are arranging Centenary Meetings in the Albert Ha

on the 26th April, the eve of the Centenary. After consultation with the parent Society, the Committee have decided that the amount raised by this special effort shall be used in defraying the cost of publishing in the Moon raised type for the Blind several Books of the Old and New Testaments in the Tamil language, which is spoken by about 16 millions of people in Southern India, of whom it is estimated there are about 17,000 blind. The amount required for this purpose is £400. The Bible Society is pre-eminently deserving of support from all Christian people; it co-operates with the Missionaries of almost every Reformed Church in preparing the versions which they need. It also makes grants towards the support of colporteurs working under Missionaries' supervision, and in the East it supports 600 native Christian Bible women. Missionaries in every land acknowledge that without the help of this Society it would be impossible to carry out the work of Evangelising the World. Mr. Joseph Hall, so well known in connection with the Swansea Institution for the Blind, is Chairman of the Centenary Committee.

23. The following appeared in "The Times" of February 24th:—"Blind Passengers on L.C.C. Tramways.—Dr. J. Fletcher Little writes that he is authorised by the Blind Travellers' Defence Committee, to present a deputation of blind workers to the London County Council, asking that free permits should be granted on the tramways to the necessitous Blind." He continues:—"While there are blind workers happily able to gain a good living, there is a large number whose earnings are quite inadequate to support existence, and they find that the payment of tram fares is a crushing burden. In Leicester, Bradford, Dundee and other places the blind workers are granted free permits on the tramways, and in the prosperous financial condition of our tramway enterprise this concession could be granted without being felt. The London County Council is the guardian of the London ratepayer, and by granting the concession we ask, they would make the lot of the necessitous blind more bearable, and also prevent some of them from becoming chargeable to the rates. I hope the electors will ask all

candidates for the County Council if they will support this proposal."

24. The first awards under the scheme for the Henry Stainsby Pension Fund for the Blind have been made, and the successful candidates are:—Louisa Huckfield, of Milcote, near Stratford-on-Avon, and Sarah Wheatley, of Polesworth.

The Pension in each instance is £6 10s. od. per annum, payable monthly. Both the successful candidates are totally blind. The Committee had a very difficult task to perform, and would greatly like to see the Fund increased, so that they may be enabled to award more pensions to deserving cases.

25. The following letter appeared in the December issue of the "Library Association Record":—

"I shall be glad to learn of any local measures for the circulation of books among blind persons. I have been requested to submit a report concerning the Libraries for the Blind in the United Kingdom, for the consideration of the Brussels International Conference of Librarians next August, and both for the sake of that report, and in fairness to those who are at work with the Blind up and down the country, I do not wish to leave any local effort unnoticed. I shall also esteem it a great favour if the librarians of towns wherein there are Institutions for the Blind, will kindly send me word as to the number (if any) of the books provided for their inmates or members, and also the conditions under which these books are circulated.

(Signed) Geo. Ed. Roebuck,
Central Public Library, Walthamstow."

26. The following extract from "The Parish Clerk," written by P. H. Ditchfield. M.A., F.S.A., is interesting, as it refers to the foundation of the well-known Hetherington's Charity. The mis-quotation in the last lines, &c., is an exact copy and not the editor's or printers' errors !

"Some of the private registers kept by clerks are still preserved. There is one at Pattishall which contains entries of births, marriages and burials, and was probably commenced in

1774, that date being on the front page together with the inscription 'John Clark's Register Book.' The writing is of a good round hand character, and far superior to the caligraphy of many present day clerks. The book is bound in vellum. The following entry, taken from the end of the volume, is worth recording :—

'London, March 31th.

Yesterday the Revd. Mr. Hetherington . . . transferred 20,000 £ South Sea Annuities into the Names of Sr. Henry Banks, Knt., Thomas Burfoot, Joseph Eyre, Thos. Coventry, and Samuel Salt, Esqrs., in Trust to pay always to 50 Blind people, Objects of Charity, not being Beggars, nor receiving Alms from the Parish, 10 £ each for their lives. It may be said with great propriety of this truly benevolent Gentleman that 'he hath displeased abroad and given to the poor, and is Righteousness remaineth for ever : his Horn shall exalted with honour.'

27. We have received a booklet, issued by that excellent and progressive New York Association for the Blind, on "Children who need not have been Blind; Prevention a Public Duty." The book is full of interesting reading, and contains many illustrations of children made blind by ophthalmia neonatorum. The New York State Commissioner of Health has taken up the question very keenly, and has outlined a plan of action to combat this terrible disease, which causes in the State of New York "one-fourth of all blindness among children, and one-eighth of all blindness from all causes."

28. Mr. H. Thilander, of Stockholm, Sweden, has written to Mr. Stainsby to tell him that the Swedish Riksdag has granted the Association of the Blind twenty-five thousand kronor (about £1,400) for 1911. To understand the significance of this grant one has to take into consideration that the number of blind persons in Sweden is not quite 4,000. This unexpected assistance is due almost entirely to Direktör Alrik Lundberg, the greatest philanthropist for the Blind of Sweden. He has tried to interest, one by one, the Members of the Riksdag, and has even paid visits to the King himself, and to the Ministers, in order to

get them interested in the cause of the Blind. The Swedish State expends also about £10,500 on the education of the Blind at the chief Institution for the Blind at Tomtebodå, and at the two Preparatory Schools, and at a School for Adults, where basket-making, and brush-making is taught, as well as reading and writing Braille.

29. The following pathetic article appeared in February last, in "The Child's Guardian," the organ of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children:—

In our towns and cities many pavement-people stand in the gutter, appealing to the sympathy of the passers-by.

That sympathy is secured in many ways. Varied exhibitions of misery bring out the ready coin from the pocket of the hurrying man or woman. Doubtless some of these are genuine cases of want, of distress, of inability to obtain or to hold anything but this sorry method of employment.

Of these there is no word to say or write but a word of pity. Often the city is relentless and cruel; often the law stands—of the weakest for the wall . . . or, literally, for the gutter.

But when the necessary sympathy is secured through the displayed suffering and wretchedness of an unfortunate child, the Society is quickly concerned. For out of the Society's wide experience there are amazing things to tell.

There are people who prefer this pavement-business to work. There are people who are ready and eager to make the sufferings of a child an asset. From this it is not so very far to the next thing, which is a dreadful thing—there are people who have purposely inflicted suffering upon a child that it should be the better asset, the more effective stock-in-trade, for this profession of the pavement's edge.

That is not so in this case, which, however, is bad enough. Here the needful stock-in-trade was a little boy. He was three years old; and he was blind. His father and mother had each married three times, and there were several children alive of these marriages. One of them was a seventeen-year-old girl. Her duty in life was with the blind step-brother. Her sole work was to carry him daily into the streets. There she watched

narrowly the passers-by. When she spied a likely person, she thrust forward the child, miserable and blind; and in its weak voice the child would repeat his lesson, perform his part of the business, by asking for a penny or a "butty." It was an irresistible appeal in many instances. The hurriedly sympathetic, whose impulse sometimes does so much damage, have neither time nor inclination to bother about root causes of the sights that compel their sympathy.

This blind child was a source of revenue to its parents. The Society's Inspector stopped this begging, and warned the father that he was likely to be prosecuted if he persisted in trading on the misfortunes of his child.

Then this father busied himself, and took up a job which the Inspector obtained for him. *Then* the child, whose childhood's training had been simply that he was to call out pitifully to the passers-by whenever told to do so, was taken to the Eye Hospital.

It was the Inspector who managed all this. He first wrote to the Hospital authorities. The family removed. Tracing them to their new home, he found that they had received a card from the Hospital telling them to take the boy along for treatment.

They had not taken the child. They had destroyed the card.

So it was the Inspector himself who at last took the child to the hospital.

After operations, his eyesight was restored. Not again would the pathetic look of the sightless eyes draw forth the coppers for the family exchequer.

Not till the point of compulsion by threat of prosecution did the father and mother regard the affliction of the child as a thing which might possibly be healed. Rather must the blindness have been looked upon as a useful happening . . . as an investment.

The point for sympathetic passers-by is obvious.

The story of a beggar woman of Lincoln provides a further bad instance of the exploited child.

The boy was eight or nine years old. The woman was in the habit of bringing him into Lincoln. There she would give the child opium to stupify him. Then, calling at the houses of

well-known residents, on the pretence of obtaining a hospital recommendation, she would borrow sums of money for the cab in which to take the boy.

She was sent to prison for a month.

VICTOR ANTHONY.

INSTITUTIONS.

Bradford. The 49th annual report for the year 1909, of the Bradford Institution for the Blind, was presented at the annual meeting, held on February 23rd, when the Lord Mayor presided. During the year there have been extensions and alterations in the Building at a cost of £750. One hundred and nineteen men and women have been employed, and the sales amounted to £11,916, and of this sum, £7,075 were realised in the brush department. The Homes for men and women are now well established, and contain 16 men and 9 women, who are given constant employment. The Day Technical Classes have proved most successful. There is a Mission Woman to visit the Blind in their homes, and two blind collectors. £2,845 were paid in wages to the Blind, and also a supplemental grant of £583. Twenty blind people receive annuities from the John Harrison Fund, and there are other pension funds as well.

Brighton. The report for 1909 of the Barclay Home and School for Blind and Partially Blind Girls, Wellington Road, Brighton, is very satisfactory. The number of pupils has been increased from 87 to 95 (44 under, and 51 above, 16 years of age). There are now 16 looms and 8 knitting machines in use in the Home. The girls' work sold amounted to £225.

Exeter. The 70th annual report for the year 1909, of the West of England Institution for the Blind, St. David's Hill, Exeter, was presented at a meeting held on February 25th. There are 59 pupils (35 males and 24 females) and 19 journeymen and women in the Institution. Eight pupils entered for the examination of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, and all passed, no less than 7 obtaining honours, notwithstanding that the majority of them were obtained in the higher and more

difficult grades. Out of 26 sighted pupils who passed, only 3 were awarded honours, and these in the two lower grades. The trade receipts amounted to £1,060; £382 were paid in wages to blind workpeople, and also £86 supplemental.

Glasgow. The 83rd report for the year ended November 30th, 1909, of the Royal Glasgow Asylum for the Blind, was submitted to the general meeting of subscribers, on January 17th. Blind persons to the number of 316 received the benefits of the Institution. The sum distributed in the form of wages, augmentation of wages and other grants, directly to adult blind persons amounted to £7,551. On completion of the education of the children at the age of 16, boys and girls are drafted into the workshops to learn a trade or occupation according to their capacity. Every boy and girl, residing outside and indigent, receive not less than 10/- and 8/- a week respectively in the first year, and these payments are made by the Parish Council. From then there is a liberal graduation of payment. During 1908 no less than 41 blind persons received on an average 28/9 each weekly. Three pupils passed the Trinity College examination in pianoforte playing. There are four blind deaf children in school. In the report there is a good photograph of some 40 blind girls operating Singer Sewing Machines by individual Diehl Electric Motors—a sight which deeply impressed many of those who witnessed it, when attending the Edinburgh Conference in 1905.

(a) The 50th annual report for 1909, of the Mission to the Out-Door Blind for Glasgow and the West of Scotland, was presented at a meeting held on January 25th, and gives an account of the Jubilee Meeting and Commemoration, when arrangements were made for special Church Services, at which Rev. H. J. R. Marston was preacher, for a concert by blind artists, and for a Jubilee reception, which was very largely attended. The Superintendent's report, in which he gives a brief review of the history and work of the Mission during the 50 years is most interesting and encouraging reading, but as he well says, "a ministry of varied influence and helpful sympathy can never be expressed in the form of statistics," of which he gives some interesting ones. There are 1,627 blind persons on the

roll, and a free lending library of about 6,000 volumes in embossed types. An average amount of £370 is disbursed annually in amounts varying from 6/- to 10/- a month to deserving cases. About 180 persons are engaged in some form of trading at their own homes, and have earned on an average 10/- a week. In the report there is an excellent photograph of Mr. J. Frew Bryden, the well-known Superintendent and the six Missionaries. The 45th annual report of the Ladies' Auxiliary, shows how it helps blind women and girls—of whom there are 425 on the roll—to earn their own living.

Hanley. The report for the year ended June 30th, 1909, of the North Staffordshire Workshops for the Blind, shows that at the close of the year there were 24 males and 9 females employed. The Workshops continue to be recognised by the Education Committee of the County of Stafford, as a School for Technical Training. The sales amounted to £1,379, and the wages to £688, with a supplement of £79.

Isle of Wight. The 16th annual report for the year 1909, of the Isle of Wight Society for the Benefit of the Indigent Blind, shows how well the 120 Blind on the Island, whose names are all given, are looked after, a result which reflects great credit on Mr. T. W. Morphey, the energetic Hon. Secretary. Sixty of the most needy cases have received regular monthly gifts or occasional grants. There is a Scripture Reader, who also acts as Home Teacher and Collector, and gives instruction in chair-caning and in basket-making. He and his guide have the privilege of travelling on the railway free of charge.

London. The 54th annual meeting of the Home Teaching Society for the Blind, was held on March 17th, when Lord Middleton, President of the Society, presided. The chief speakers were the Rev. S. F. Harris, an active worker of the West of England Union, who described how a small event attracted him to work for the Blind. He eulogised the work of the Society, its efficiency and directness, and showed how it often stands between man and despair, and how in some cases a tragedy had been averted. It is twice blest, blessing the blind teacher that gives, and the one visited that takes. The Rev. P.

T. Bainbrigge and Dr. Ranger also spoke, the latter making a comparison between the old and the new way of contemplating blindness. There are 14 blind teachers who work in and round London, and another in Surrey and Berkshire. There are 1,962 blind persons on the registers.

(a) The 50th annual report for the year ended September 30th, 1909, of the Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, 258, Tottenham Court Road, London, W., shows that the sales amounted to £13,303, and that £1,985 were paid in wages to the Blind, and £375 in pensions. There are about 76 blind workers and pupils, and 23 pensioners. A sum of £497 was paid in supplementary wages. The loss on the year amounted to £547, after crediting a legacy of £687.

Manchester. The 10th report of the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society, for the year ending December 31st, gives the reports of each separate branch, and shows the growth which has taken place. The Central Rooms in the old Eye Hospital, Artillery Street, are in constant use, and focus the work of the Society, making a Centre where the workers are in constant touch with the Blind, and from which much of the varied help is dispensed and distributed. At the Central Rooms there is a first-rate Library in Blind types; and there the book-binding industry is carried on. At Southport there is a Holiday Home, which can take in 30 blind people, and which benefits the Blind of many other towns as well as Manchester and Salford. There is also a Home for Blind Women, which can accommodate 30 inmates, at "The Elms," Eccles Old Road. The Sick and Benefit Club has nearly 200 members. The Brush Workshop is now paying its way. There is a system of visiting, in districts and workhouses, carried on by Voluntary Visitors. In various ways employment is given to over 60 persons, £800 per year being now spent in wages; whilst assistance is given to those who cannot work, or are disabled for a time by trouble or sickness. A great effort has been made to endow the new Home for Blind Women to the amount of £100 a year—£1,500 is invested for this purpose, and £500 will soon be added, but £1,000 is still needed. This would provide for the ground rent and for the rates and taxes.

Reading. The 17th annual report of the Reading Blind Aid Society shows how completely and successfully the original aim of the Society has been carried out by ameliorating the condition of life of the poor adult totally Blind in Reading. This successful organisation is the result mainly of the energy and perseverance of Mr. Walford, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. At the present time there are 41 blind persons of ages varying from 21 to 85 years, all living comfortably in their own homes or as lodgers. The investment fund now amounts to £2,366. The sum of £242 was paid to blind adults, and coals and provisions were distributed to the amount of £5 5s.

Walsall. The 4th annual report for the year ended May 31st, 1909, of the Walsall, Wednesbury and District Society for the Blind, was presented at a meeting held on July 9th. An effort is being made to raise £1,000 for a new workshop. At present there are 9 blind men and two youths employed. The sales amounted to £426, and £291 were paid in wages, in addition to £18 paid to blind girls for outwork. There is a Home Teaching Branch.

THE UNIONS OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

The Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union. A Meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the rooms of the Gardner's Trust, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., on Saturday, the 8th January, at 11 30 a.m. There were present Mr. H. J. Wilson (Chair), Miss Bainbrigge, Miss Moon, Miss Taylor, Sir John Brickwood, Sir Francis Campbell, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mr. Stuart Johnson, Mr. Lempriere and Mr. Guy Campbell (Hon. Secretary) Miss Burgess (Org. Secretary) also attended. Mrs. Inglis was unable to attend.

The Chairman reported that the Earl of Warwick (Lord Lieutenant of the County of Essex) and Mr. J. Herbert Benyon (Lord Lieutenant of Berks) had consented to become Vice-Presidents of the Union.

The Hon. Secretary read Miss Wheeler's letter expressing her willingness to act as Hon. District Representative for Eastbourne, and Mr. Wilson was requested to send her an official letter of thanks.

Miss Burgess reported the various places which she had visited in Essex, mentioning the names of ladies and gentlemen who had given her assistance, and foreshadowing the holding of several meetings to introduce the work of the Union. She further reported that she had secured two representatives for Bromley and had personally visited 120 London cases.

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting should be called for 5th March and be held at the offices of the Gardner's Trust.

The draft Report for 1909 which had been prepared by the Hon. Secretary, was very carefully considered and revised.

It was agreed that the Education Authorities of the different boroughs belonging to the Union should be circularised and have reports sent to them, in the hope that they would be willing to assist the Union in filling up forms.

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held on Saturday, 5th February, at 11.30 a.m. There were present Mr. H. J. Wilson (Chair), Miss Bainbrigg, Miss Taylor, Sir Francis Campbell, Mr. Stuart Johnson, Mr. Lempriere and Mr. Guy Campbell (Hon. Secretary). Miss Burgess (Org. Secretary) also attended.

Regrets for inability to attend the meeting were reported on behalf of Miss Moon, Sir John Brickwood and the Rev. St. Clare Hill.

The Hon. Secretary reported that he had received letters from Miss E. M. Reid, a correspondent for blind members of the Girl's Friendly Society, offering to befriend girls whose names and addresses might be forwarded from the Union, in those towns which belonged to the diocese of Canterbury.

The Chairman reported that the Hon. Secretary had attended the meeting of the Association of Subscribers to Charities on Friday, 28th January, and that the two following resolutions were passed, and all other action deferred:—(1) That it is desirable that the disease known as Ophthalmia Neonatorum should be scheduled as a disease, notification of which is

compulsory under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act (1889). (2) That the Executive Committee of the Association be requested to convey the above Resolution to the Conference of Medical Officers of Health of the Metropolis which is to take place about the 14th February, with a request that the question may be discussed at that Conference and with a covering letter drawing attention to the position in which the matter now stands.

It was reported that the West London Workshops had affiliated to the Union and that the sum of £10 had been received through Mr. Evans, Clerk to the Clothworkers' Company, as a donation, and that Mr. Evans would represent the Company on the Council of the Union.

Miss Burgess reported that she was now securing access to the register of blind persons belonging to the Home Teaching Society, the British and Foreign Blind Association, the Indigent Blind Visiting Society, the National Lending Library, etc.

With regard to the meeting at Chelmsford, she read a letter from Mrs. Richardson regretting that it must again be postponed to the 2nd or 3rd March. Mr. Wilson kindly consented to attend and speak. The meetings at Braintree and other places were also spoken of, but no definite dates had been fixed.

The Chairman reported that Lord Clarendon, Lord Lieutenant of the County of Hertford, had consented to become a Vice-President.

Mr. Henry Stainsby and Mr. P. M. Evans were unanimously elected members of the Executive Committee.

It was agreed to call the Annual General Meeting for 3 o'clock, on the 5th March, with Mr. Wilson as Chairman. Admission was to be by ticket on which the name of the person using the ticket was to be filled in.

The Agenda was discussed and agreed to.

It was further agreed that Sir John Brickwood should be asked to move and Mr. Henry Stainsby to second the adoption of the Annual Report.

The Chairman reported that Miss Taylor and Mr. Stuart Johnson had kindly offered to defray the expense of the postage of a letter, with stamp for reply, to the beneficed Clergy in Kent

in order to obtain the names and addresses of all blind persons in their respective parishes. The offer was accepted with thanks and it was agreed that the letters should be signed by the Chairman and be typed at the Royal Normal College.

The amendments in the Annual Report suggested by various members of the Committee were pointed out by the Hon. Secretary, and the draft was then approved. The question of obtaining tenders and the number of copies to be printed was left in the hands of the Chairman and Secretary.

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held on Saturday the 5th March, at 2 p.m. Mr. H. J. Wilson (Chair), Miss Bainbrigge, Mrs. Inglis, Miss Moon, Miss Taylor, Sir Francis Campbell, Mr. Stuart Johnson, Mr. Lempriere, Mr. Stainsby and Mr. Guy Campbell. Miss Burgess, Org. Secretary, also attended.

Regrets for inability to attend the meeting were reported on behalf of Sir John Brickwood, Mr. Evans² and the Rev. St. Clare Hill.

The Chairman heartily welcomed Mr. Stainsby as a new member of the Committee.

Letters were read from Mr. Evans, of the Clothworkers' Company, and from Mr. Stainsby, thanking the Union for electing them on the Executive Committee.

It was reported by the Hon. Secretary that eight of the cases which had been sent by him as applicants for Hetherington's Charity had been elected to pensions.

Miss Burgess reported that since the last meeting 210 letters had been sent out to the Clergy of Kent. 83 answers had been received and of these 83, 62 stated that there were no blind people in their parishes. The remaining 21 parishes produced 53 fresh cases, 17 in the Dover and Canterbury district, and 36 in places from which no returns had been previously received.

It was reported that 58 people attended the Chelmsford meeting, and that eight gave in their names as being willing to help Mrs. Richardson, in whose house the meeting was held, in forming a Chelmsford Society for the Blind. The collection amounted to £4. Mr. Wilson addressed the meeting explaining

the aims and objects of the Union, and how those in Chelmsford would be able to help. Miss Beatrice Taylor and Miss Burgess also attended the meeting. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Sir Francis Campbell, and carried unanimously that a cordial vote of thanks be accorded Mrs. Richardson for all the arrangements kindly made by her for the meeting. Mr. Wilson was requested to write her and convey the thanks of the Union.

The Chairman pointed out that he thought the time had now arrived for fresh bye-laws to be drawn up for the guidance of the Union, and he further suggested that a Sub-Committee should be appointed for this purpose, and also to draw up a paper with suggestions for starting a new Society. It was agreed that the Sub-Committee do consist of the Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and Miss B. Taylor.

The Hon. Secretary having presented the revised draft of the Annual Report, and having drawn attention to the special features in it, on the motion of Mr. Lempriere, seconded by Sir Francis Campbell, it was unanimously agreed to recommend the Report and Statement of Accounts, as submitted, for the approval and adoption of the General Council.

The Chairman remarked that he was becoming daily more convinced that unless more rapid methods of working could be discovered, it would be years before the register of the Blind would be properly completed, and he therefore thought that instead of any one official of the Union trying to go round and collect the necessary information, efforts should be made to try to get this done by people, preferably ladies, in each locality. He also thought more should be attempted through the provincial press.

The annual general meeting of this Union for the Blind, was held in the rooms of the Gardner's Trust, on the 5th March, at 3 p.m., when there were present: Miss Austin, Miss E.M. Bainbrigge, Miss Beasley, Miss C. Bennett, Miss G. Burgess, Lady Campbell, Miss Charnock, Miss Davenport, Miss Godwin, Miss Harris Browne, Miss M. E. Harris Browne, Mrs. Inglis, Miss M. Martin, Miss Moon, Mrs. Morphey, Miss E. M. Reid, Miss E.R. Scott, Miss B. Taylor, Mrs. H. J. Wilson, Sir Francis Campbell, Mr. C. E.

Dustow, Mr. Gadsby, Mr. E. C. Hamley, Mr. Stuart Johnson, Mr. Lempriere, Mr. T. H. Martin, Mr. F. J. Mulley, Mr. T. W. Morphey, Mr. H. Stainsby, Mr. H. J. Wagg, Mr. H. J. Wilson in the Chair, and Mr. Guy M. Campbell, Hon. Secretary.

The minutes of the meeting of the 30th January, 1909, were read and confirmed.

Letters of regret for inability to attend the meeting were reported on behalf of the Duke of Norfolk and Mr. J. Herbert Benyon, Vice-Presidents; also the Rev. P. Bainbrigge, Sir John Brickwood, the Rev. and Mrs. Bright, Mrs. Goodhart, Miss Hastings, the Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mr. Linton, Miss Romilly, the Rev. A. Taylor, Miss Wheeler, and Mrs. Whishaw.

The Chairman, in his opening remarks, said that although he was optimistic in regard to the future work and influence of the Union, he could not shut his eyes to many difficulties ahead, and to the fact that the task undertaken was gigantic, and required a determined and sustained effort to successfully accomplish the results aimed at. He referred to the disappointment in the returns from the 95 Police divisions, and to the circularising of the Clergy in Kent. (This last expense had been kindly paid by two members of the Committee). He then spoke about After-care, which he described as the most pressing problem at the present time, and added that a few friends had held several informal meetings to try and think out some comprehensive and workable scheme to place before the Union. Mr. Wilson then drew the attention of the meeting to two special points, viz.: (a) the necessity to devise some method of quicker organisation; and he suggested that this may be done locally through Hon. Representatives rather than from the centre. He quoted a sentence from a letter from Miss Heywood, to show that the same difficulty is being experienced in the North of England Union. He also referred to the recent meeting at Chelmsford, and suggested some arrangements which should be made prior to any future meetings; and (b) the meeting at the Mansion House, held yesterday, for the purpose of starting a Social Welfare Association for London, which absorbed the Association of Subscribers to Charities. After referring to the helpful

manner in which the last-named Association had always co-operated with the Union, Mr. Wilson said that he felt sure that the new Association, on the Provisional Committee of which he had been appointed, would also work heartily with the Union. He concluded by wishing all success to the Union, and by stating that he looked forward to the time when the seven Unions will have all the particulars of the Blind in their respective districts, and that this information will be available for any philanthropic person or Charity for the Blind. Then, and then only, he considered that the organisation of the Unions would be complete.

The following gentlemen were unanimously elected officers of the Union for 1910-11:—Chairman, Mr. H. J. Wilson; Mover, Mr. Stuart Johnson; Seconder, Sir Francis Campbell; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Stuart Johnson; Mover, Sir Francis Campbell; Seconder, Mr. Martin; Hon. Secretary, Mr. Guy Campbell; Mover, Mr. Morphey; Seconder, Mr. Stainsby.

The following ladies and gentlemen were, on the motion of Mr. Wagg, seconded by Miss Scott, unanimously elected as the Executive Committee:—Miss E. M. Bainbrigge, Sir John Brickwood, Sir F. J. Campbell, Mr. P. M. Evans, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mrs. Inglis, Mr. W. Lempriere, Miss A. Moon, Mr. H. Stainsby, and Miss B. Taylor.

The Committee being anxious not to exclude any Society or Agency within the area of the Union, but to secure full representation, have reduced the affiliation fee to a minimum amount of half-a-guinea, to be paid annually.

This decision was now embodied by transforming the old Rule IV. into three new Bye-laws, IV., V. and VI., which read as follows:—

4. The government of the Union shall be vested in a President, Vice-Presidents, General Council, and an Executive Committee, with Chairman, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Secretary. The Council shall consist of one or two Representatives from each Society affiliated to the Union, and those ladies and gentlemen interested in the Blind, who duly qualify.

5. The affiliation fee for Societies belonging to the Union shall be a minimum amount of half-a-guinea, to be paid annually.
6. Ladies and gentlemen annually subscribing a minimum amount of one guinea shall be admitted to the Union as Members, and have the privilege of attending and voting at all Council Meetings. Ladies and gentlemen subscribing 5/- shall be admitted to the Union as Associates, and have the privilege of attending Council Meetings, but without the power of voting.

The proposed alteration of the Constitution was unanimously agreed to, on the motion of Mr. Lempriere, seconded by Miss Taylor.

The Hon. Secretary presented the annual report, drawing attention to the following features: that the Lords Lieutenant of Sussex, Essex, Berks, and Herts, had been secured as Vice-Presidents; that 14 Hon. District Representatives had been elected; that a table of the Schools, Workshops, Societies, etc., within the area of the Union, with the names and addresses of their Principals, Superintendents or Head Teachers, had been compiled, as well as a list of the Home-Teaching Societies, Homes, Tea Agencies, Pension Societies, Miscellaneous Societies, Libraries, and Magazines, which were doing work for the Blind within the area of the Union. Mention was made of the hearty co-operation of the Association of Subscribers to Charities, the formation of the Union of Unions for the Blind, the duties of Hon. District Representatives, and the reprinting of Miss Schneider's leaflet on the Prevention of Blindness, and how parents should train and treat their blind children.

In the unavoidable absence of Sir John Brickwood, Sir Francis Campbell moved the adoption of the report, urging all present to lend a hand in the great work undertaken by the Union.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Stainsby, who expressed his interest in the Union Movement, and stated that he was present at a Conference in Manchester in 1905, when a proposition to form a Union of the six Northern Counties was adopted. He congratulated the Committee on having begun their work in the right direction by obtaining, through their Secretary, a list of

all the blind people living within their area, together with all the necessary details of each case. Mr. Stainsby pointed out that when this was accomplished it would be found that the list included:—(1) Children for whom immediate provision should be made in a certified school; (2) Many persons who, in addition to their blindness, suffered from mental or physical defects; and (3) A number of aged and infirm Blind who would probably constitute the majority; for these, pensions ought to be secured. Perhaps the most pathetic cases of all would be (4) Those of young men of, say, 30 years of age, with wife and family. These require immediate assistance—probably in the matter of handicrafts—and temporary financial help while a knowledge of such handicrafts is being acquired.

After all, the work of the Union would be largely one of "After Care," a subject to which the Chairman had already referred as being one of pressing importance. The speaker considered that the task which the Unions had set themselves to accomplish was a colossal one, but he was sure that the friends of the Blind would not lose heart on that account, but would rather make a determined effort to cope with apparently almost insurmountable difficulties.

The adoption of the report was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Johnson presented the annual statement of income and expenditure, explaining that at the Bank, on current account, there was a sum of £11 17s. 5d., and on deposit £100, making a total of £111 17s. 5d. The statement was received and adopted.

It was suggested that an effort should be made to secure the adhesion of all the Institutions, Societies, and Agencies which had not yet joined the Union. It was pointed out that this would be done as soon as the Report was printed and ready for circulation.

North of England Union. The last quarterly meeting was held at Bradford, on February 5th, in the Institution for the Blind, when there was a very good attendance, both at the Executive Meeting in the morning and at that of the General Committee in the afternoon. The members were most kindly welcomed by the Chairman and others of the Bradford

Committee, and the visits to the Homes for Men and Women were deeply interesting to all who have the care and visitation of the aged and infirm Blind at heart.

Mr. Donkin, Secretary of the Royal Institute for the Blind of Sunderland was present, and brought an invitation from his Committee to the Union, to visit Sunderland for the Annual Meeting, which was cordially accepted. The gathering will take place on Saturday, May 7th, and arrangements for the day are in progress, details of which will be sent out shortly.

Three fresh small Visiting Committees have been formed in new districts within the last three months.

On February 9th an informal meeting was held at the house of Miss Agnes Leatham, at Carlton, near Pontefract, to discuss possibilities in the Pontefract and Osgoldcross Division. Miss E. Wright explained the aims of the Union, and the needs of the Blind in that district, and a small committee was then formed, with Miss Leatham of Hemsworth Hall, as Hon. Secretary, and with Mrs. Gell, the wife of the Vicar of Pontefract, one of the members.

On February 18th a similar meeting was held at Southport, when Miss Heywood was present to explain the needs of the Blind, and a local Visiting Committee was formed partly in connection with the members of the Southport Home of Rest Committee, and on March 16th a Visiting Committee was formed at Bury by Miss Heywood.

Mr. Littlewood, the new Superintendent of the Hardman Street and Wavertree Schools has been elected by the Liverpool members as their representative on the Executive Committee of this Union. We desire to offer him a cordial welcome.

A brief leaflet card on Prevention of Blindness has been drawn up by Mr. A. Nimmo Walker, M.B., Liverpool, for use and distribution at Women's Meetings, and it will be issued in Braille as well as ordinary type, thanks to the kind offer of Mr. Arnold, of Sale, Manchester.

New circulars with a list of members up to date have just been issued.

The Annual Meeting of the Darlington Blind Welfare Society, formed two years ago, was held on March 18th, when

Mr. F. J. Munby, Chairman of this Union, was present.

One of the Hon. Secretaries, Mrs. Robinson, has resigned, owing to her leaving Darlington, and she will be much missed for her keen interest in the cause of the Blind. Mrs. M. Putmain remains as sole Hon. Secretary.

The Union has also lost another member of Committee, through change of residence, in Miss Burnett, of Colne, who has resigned her Hon. Secretaryship. Her clear insight into all questions will be much missed. Mrs. Hartley Turner takes her place as Hon. Secretary for the Colne Society.

COLLEGE OF TEACHERS OF THE BLIND.

A Meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the Offices of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, S.W., on Saturday 26th February, at 2.30 p.m., when there were present:—Sir Francis Campbell; Lady Campbell; Miss L. Douglas-Hamilton; Miss Garaway; Rev. St. Clare Hill; Messrs. W. H. Illingworth; Stuart Johnson; W. Littlewood; S. Maddocks; A. Pearson; H. W. P. Pine; Dr. Ranger; Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Chairman; Hon. A. M. Kinnaird, Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. Henry Stainsby, Hon. Registrar.

Apologies for absence were received from:—Rev. T. Barnard; Messrs. B. P. Jones; A. B. Norwood; W. M. Stone; and H. M. Taylor.

The minutes of the last meeting of 23rd October were read, confirmed and signed by the chairman.

The draft report and the audited statement of accounts were presented and approved, and it was moved by Mr. H. W. P. Pine, seconded by Mr. S. Maddocks, and resolved "That the Report and Financial Statements be submitted to the Annual Meeting of the Council for adoption."

The Rev. St. Clare Hill explained the various suggested alterations in the syllabus for 1910, especially with regard to Manual Work, which the Examiners recommended for adoption by the Committee.

It was resolved "That Moon's System be eliminated from the list of Optional Subjects," and "That the alterations in the Syllabus be approved."

The Hon. Registrar reported that the Board of Education had now recognised the successful candidates at the 1908 as well as the 1909 examination; also that the Board now recognises the examination conducted by the College.

It was reported that on the suggestion of the Board of Examiners the British and Foreign Blind Association had canvassed the Schools for the Blind with a view to ascertaining information on the arithmetic notation now in use.

Certain modifications which had been made were now submitted to this Committee, and approved.

It was moved by Mr. H. W. P. Pine, seconded by Miss L. Douglas-Hamilton and resolved "That a Sub-committee, consisting of Sir Francis Campbell; Miss Garaway; Rev. St. Clare Hill; Messrs. S. Maddocks and W. H. Illingworth, be appointed to consider a scheme for giving model lessons in teaching blind children, and report to this Committee."

The Hon. Registrar reported that Mr. H. M. Taylor and Mr. William Harris had accepted the invitation of the College to become Vice-Presidents.

A letter was read from Mr. F. S. Smith in Tasmania with reference to conducting examinations of the College in Tasmania. This was referred to the Board of Examiners to consider and report to this Committee.

Permission was granted to the Chairman and Hon. Registrar to purchase suitable books for the Library to the value of not more than five pounds a year.

The Chairman announced that an invitation had been received to send delegates to a Conference on the Registration of Teachers convened by the Federal Council of Secondary School Associations. As the notice was too short to call a meeting of the Committee he had conferred with some of the Members with the result that Miss Garaway; Rev. St. Clare Hill and himself had attended the Conference as representatives of the College.

In accordance with rule 13 of the Schedule the following were selected by ballot to retire at the Annual Meeting but are eligible for re-election: Miss Garaway; Sir Francis Campbell; Rev. St. Clare Hill; Messrs. W. H. Illingworth; B. P. Jones and W. Littlewood.

The Chairman reported that a sum of money had been kindly given to him by Miss Harris Browne to be used for the benefit of the Blind as he thought fit, and that he had allocated £15 to the funds of the College.

It was moved by Sir Francis Campbell, seconded by Mr. S. Maddocks and resolved "That the best thanks of the Meeting be given to Miss Harris Browne for her generous contribution to the Funds of the College."

The Annual Meeting of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held at the Office of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, on 12th March, at 2.30 p.m., when there were present:— Lord Cobham (in the Chair), Lord Kinnaird, The Rev. Prebendary the Hon. J. S. Northcote, M.A., Sir Francis and Lady Campbell, Miss E. W. Austin, Miss A. M. Harris Browne, Miss G. Burgess, Miss L. Douglas-Hamilton, Miss M. M. R. Garaway, Miss Isabel M. Heywood, Miss Beatrice Taylor, Mrs. H. J. Wilson, Miss Edith Wright; Messrs. C. M. Collinwood, Guy M. Campbell; Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. W. H. Illingworth, Stuart Johnson, S. Maddocks, T. H. Martin, F. J. Munby, A. B. Norwood, A. P. Pearson, H. W. P. Pine; Dr. A. W. G. Ranger, Messrs. Henry Stainsby, W. M. Stone, W. Ernest Taylor, W. H. Thurman and Henry J. Wilson.

Prebendary Northcote opened the proceedings with prayer.

The Hon. Registrar announced apologies from the following:—Sir Matthew Dodsworth, Hon. A. M. Kinnaird, Hon. Mrs. Campion, Lt.-Col. Jolly, Rev. Barton Mills, Rev. T. Barnard, Mrs. Greg, Mrs. Wilton Phipps, Messrs. B. P. Jones, William Robertson and A. J. Story.

The Hon. Registrar read the Report and Financial Statements for the past year. (Copies can be obtained from the Hon. Registrar).

In moving the following resolution, which was agreed to unanimously, Lord Cobham spoke of the progress made by the College during the year, and remarked that as the College fulfilled all the requirements of the Board of Education it might be desirable at some future time to apply to the Board for a grant towards the necessary expenses.

The resolution was seconded by the Rev. Prebendary Northcote:

"That the Report and Financial Statements as read be received, adopted and entered on the minutes and that copies be printed and circulated among the Vice-Presidents, Officers, Members, Subscribers and friends of the College, together with other persons interested in the education of the Blind."

It was moved by Mr. A. B. Norwood, Seconded by Mr. W. H. Thurman and resolved—

"That the thanks of this Meeting be given to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, the Hon. Arthur M. Kinnaird, Dr. A. W. G. Ranger, Mr. Henry Stainsby and Messrs. Drury, Thurgood & Co., for their services during the past year, and that they be and are hereby re-appointed to the Honorary offices of Chairman, Treasurer, Solicitor, Registrar and Auditors respectively for the current year."

On behalf of the Hon. Officers Mr. Henry J. Wilson thanked the Meeting for their kind appreciation of services rendered.

The Chairman announced that no nominations had been sent to the Honorary Registrar and that in accordance with Rule 13 of the Foundation Deed the retiring members would be eligible for re-election.

It was moved by Mr. F. J. Munby, seconded by Dr. Ranger and resolved—

"That Miss Garaway, Sir Francis Campbell, The Rev. St. Clare Hill and Messrs. W. H. Illingworth, B. P. Jones, and W. Littlewood be and they are hereby re-appointed Members of the Executive Committee for the current year."

It was moved by Mr. Henry J. Wilson, seconded by Sir Francis Campbell and resolved—

"That Miss Harris Browne be and she is hereby appointed a Member of the Council of the College."

On the motion of Lord Kinnaird, seconded by Mr. Henry J. Wilson, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Lord Cobham for his great kindness in presiding over this Meeting. With this vote of thanks was coupled the name of Prebendary Northcote, who had attended the meeting at considerable inconvenience to second the adoption of the Report.

The Blind.

VOL. III.

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JULY 20TH, 1910.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before September 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. It is with much regret that we have to announce the death, on 7th June, of Mr. Richard Glynn Vivian, who built and endowed the Home for Blind Persons near Swansea, to which we referred in the April number, 1907.

A very appreciative article appeared about Mr. Vivian in the *Daily Telegraph*. He was a brother of the late Lord Swansea and was a great traveller, having visited nearly every important town in the world. He was also a Welsh bard and bore the name "Glynn o' Sketty," Sketty Hall, near Swansea, being his Welsh residence, which is filled with curios and objects of art, collected during his travels. Mr. Vivian went blind in 1902, when as he afterwards stated, a small white, misty cloud seemed to settle on his eyes one day when he was walking down Bond Street on a bright summer's day. This proved to be the forerunner of almost total blindness. After blindness supervened he published "Out of Darkness, Light," which contains a collection of his scattered writings, chiefly poems. Mr. Vivian not only presented an Art Gallery to the town of Swansea, but also set aside a sum of £78,000 to establish Miner's Missions in various parts of the world. Mr. Vivian was son of the founder

of the well-known copper smelting works at Landore, South Wales, and died at his London residence, 24, Eaton Square, at the age of 75, unmarried.

2. Many of our readers will have heard with regret of the sudden death of Lt.-Col. Sydney Selfe, R.A., which occurred on May 31st.

From the year 1901 to 1908 Col. Selfe was employed as Secretary of the Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, Tottenham Court Road, during which time he devoted his whole energies and talents to the careful exercise of his secretarial duties, and he brought to his work a spirit of philanthropy and friendliness to the Blind, that materially assisted the work of the Association.

His previous experience with the Charity Organization Society, in which he had been employed, eminently fitted him for advising in all cases of distress, and it was due to the very high character for worth and work that he brought from this Society that he was selected for the post of Secretary of the Association.

His death, which was quite unexpected, as at the time of its occurrence he was apparently quite well and in good spirits, has left a large circle of friends in every grade of life to mourn his loss.

He was nephew to Dr. Tait, late Archbishop of Canterbury, and it was he who, when he was at Rugby, characterised Archbishop Temple in that well-known phrase, "a beast, but a just beast." He wrote some very interesting "Notes on the Characters and Incidents of 'Tom Brown's Schooldays,'" and expanded them just before his death in a book called "Chapters from the History of Rugby School."

3. On 30th June, there passed away at his residence in Gough Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, Mr. George Burkinshaw, who was undoubtedly one of the oldest workers in the cause of the Blind. He was appointed Schoolmaster of the General Institution for the Blind, Edgbaston (then *near*, but now a part of) Birmingham, in the year 1856, when the Institution was only

ten years old. He subsequently held office as Secretary and Trade Manager, and finally, for a short period, as General Superintendent. He retired in June, 1895, but ever since that date he has in reality been quietly employing his time in book-keeping and accountancy at the Institution. He was born at Birmingham, and educated at King Edward VI School at Birmingham, where he was a contemporary of Archbishop Benson, and Bishops Lightfoot and Westcott. He was an excellent type of a refined artistic Christian English gentleman, and will be long missed by all who knew him.

4. We heartily congratulate Mr. Alfred Chapple on taking honours, securing a Second in Part II of the History tripos, at Cambridge. Mr. Chapple is the son of the Rev. G. Porter Chapple, and was educated at the Royal Normal College. He left there in December, 1906, and was then coached by Mr. J. H. Warmington, M.A., who is also blind. He entered the University in October, 1907, and was in residence as a non-collegiate student for three years, taking his degree last June, with honours, as mentioned above. His father, mother, and sister were present in the Senate House, on June 21st, when he received his degree. He was the only blind man amongst the large number on whom degrees were conferred, and it must have been very gratifying to his parents and sister that he obtained quite the ovation of the afternoon, the Vice-Chancellor rising to receive him, instead of requiring him to kneel, as in the case of the other men. Mr. Chapple held a Gardner Scholarship at Cambridge.

5. Mr. H. A. Roberts, who has held a Gardner Scholarship for three years at St. David's College, Lampeter, and was previously educated at the School for the Blind at Swansea, and at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester, had the degree of B.A. conferred on him on June 23rd, having passed his final examination in the First Class which includes Theology only, with special mention. We heartily congratulate Mr. Roberts on having achieved so much, and wish him every success in his future career.

6. The Rev. A. J. Dexter, formerly chaplain of the Missionary College, Dorchester, has been appointed Vice-Principal.

7. The Rev. John Swinnerton, formerly curate of Hemsworth, Yorks, has been appointed to the living of Tolleshunt Major in Essex.

8. Mr. Percy Way, formerly organist at Christ Church, Albany Street, London, has been appointed organist at the Church of the Annunciation, Edgware Road.

9. It is with very great and real regret that we have to announce the resignation of Miss Wright, Organising Secretary of the North of England Union of Institutions for the Blind. The hard and often anxious labours entailed in organising the formation of a new branch of work for the Blind, caused a failure of health that necessitated care and rest. Very sincere thanks are due to her for the unremitting industry with which she discharged the manifold duties of her office, and there is no doubt that it is greatly owing to her administrative ability and strenuous work that so good a start was made when the North of England Union came into existence. Her many friends hope soon to hear of Miss Wright's complete restoration to health, and renewed efforts to help the cause of the Blind in one or more of the many ways available.

10. The Rev. Wilfred A. Schofield was ordained Priest at Southwark Cathedral, on Trinity Sunday. Amongst those who were present at the impressive Ordination Service were Sir Francis and Lady Campbell, and some of Mr. Schofield's old friends from the Royal Normal College, where he received his education.

11. Next month, Mr. W. H. Illingworth, F.C.T.B., the well-known Superintendent of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Old Trafford, and of the Manchester and Salford Workshops for the Blind, celebrates his semi-jubilee in Blind work.

Mr. Illingworth began his work on behalf of the Blind in August, 1885, when he was appointed Headmaster of the Royal Blind Asylum and School, West Craigmillar, at the early age of 22, and here he continued his labours with conspicuous success for nearly twenty years.

In 1886 he had the honour of receiving Queen Victoria at the Institution, and was personally complimented by Her Majesty on his work.

In 1890 he established at West Craigmillar the first printing press for the publication of Braille literature in Scotland; and in January, of 1893, started and edited *Hora Jucunda*, the well-known Braille Monthly Magazine. This was followed after a short interval by *The Craigmillar Harp*, the first Braille Musical Magazine ever published. Its success was immediate, and as a quarterly periodical it still holds its own.

Mr. Illingworth claims to be the first to introduce type-writing as a means of education and employment of the Blind, and it was he, we believe, who trained the first blind typist for work in a business office. It is interesting to note that his blind pupil has proved herself so capable that she still occupies the same post to which she was originally appointed.

Mr. Illingworth has taken great interest in physical training and recreation of the Blind, and his "Running Track" at West Craigmillar was quickly copied by several Institutions for the Blind in this and other countries.

He is probably best known, however, as an expert and enthusiastic "Brailist," and in this he is a "Progressive" of the most pronounced type. The British Braille Committee, of which he was an active member, which sat for three years on the Revision of the Braille System, and completed its labours in 1905, was the outcome of a paper on "A Uniform Braille System," read by him at the Conference held in 1902, at the Church House, Westminster, under the ægis of Gardner's Trust for the Blind.

His success in educating the blind, deaf mute, David McLean, of Edinburgh, made him an honorary member of the National Association of Teachers of the Deaf, and he read a

paper on this interesting case before the Conference of this Association, held in London, 1903.

Mr. Illingworth was presented with a silver medal from the Royal Society of Arts, for a paper on "Past and Present Methods of Educating the Blind," read before that Society in 1894, and also with the Medal and Diplome d'honneur of the Valentin Haüy Society, for a paper he read at the Paris Congress in 1900, on "The Blind as Teachers of the Blind."

At the close of 1904 he was called to the Superintendentship of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Old Trafford, and in 1908 acted as Hon. General Secretary to the Conference held in Manchester in that year.

Mr. Illingworth has been a member of the Executive Committee of the North of England Union of all Agencies and Institutions for the Blind, the first Union of its kind in the Kingdom, since its inception. He is also a member of the "National Committee for the better and more general employment of the Blind," and of the "College of Teachers of the Blind," of which he was elected one of the first five Fellows in October last. He is one of the Board of Examiners to the College, and Hon. Secretary to that Board.

He has contributed much to Blind Literature, and in March of this year published "The History of the Education of the Blind," which we reviewed in our last number.

Mr. Illingworth was married in 1887, and he never forgets to attribute much of his success to the wise counsel and untiring zeal of his devoted wife.

12. *The Weekly Summary for the Blind*, issued on May 11th, contained an interesting memoir of our late King, His Majesty Edward VII, price 2d., post free. *The Weekly Summary for the Blind*, published on May 25th, contains a large supplement describing the funeral of our late King, and other interesting matter, presented to subscribers, to non-subscribers 3d., post free, with reprint of portrait, in relief, of King Edward VII (first published at the time of the Coronation in 1902) 4d., post free. These portraits can also be obtained separately, 1½d., post free.

Order of the Editor of the *Weekly Summary for the Blind*, Shere, Surrey.

13. The following is an extract from *The Times*: "At the conclusion of a concert given by the pupils of the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind, Upper Norwood, at a garden party held at the College on June 25th, Dr. Huntley (Organist of St. Peter's, Eaton Square), as Chairman of the Council of the South London Musical Festival, said that they had selected Wilfrid Kershaw, a blind pupil of the College, for the scholarship offered by the South London Festival. Dr. Huntley handed the cheque for the scholarship to Sir Francis Campbell, the Principal, and said that after hearing Master Kershaw's pianoforte playing, and particularly his accompaniment to MacCunn's chorus 'Lord Ullin's Daughter,' which for a boy of 15 was wonderful, they felt sure they were providing for a rich musical future. Dr. Huntley warmly praised the singing of the College choir, and said the Festival Council hoped to be able to award two scholarships for the College next year.

Sir Francis Campbell thanked the Council for the scholarship, and said it was Master Kershaw's ambition to make a home for his mother."

14. The following extract from the *Yorkshire Daily Observer*, of June 30th, is important but very disappointing:—"The deputation to the President of the Board of Education to ask an increased grant for blind children, and for the technical education of blind adults, received a sympathetic, but not a very encouraging answer. The members composing it, Sir William Priestley, Sir Thomas Roe, Mr. T. E. Harvey, of Leeds, Colonel Heath, and one or two others, submitted a strong statement of their case, but Mr. Runciman could not see his way to any increase. The Treasury, at the moment, according to Mr. Runciman, is deaf to all departmental appeals for more money. The question of grants for the technical education of blind adults was ruled by the President of the Board of Education to be out of his province, and to belong properly to the Local

Government Board. For the time being, therefore, the matter will have to stand over.”

15. Many of our readers may be interested to know that the British and Foreign Bible Society has now published the whole of the English Bible in Grade II. It is issued in 39 volumes in a serviceable dark-coloured binding. Each volume costs from 2/6 to 3/- to produce, apart from the making of the plates. The price at which they are sold by the Society is 1/- per volume, or 1/1½ post free in the United Kingdom.

In response to many enquiries the Gospel of St. Mark has also been published in “uncontracted” Braille. Should this meet a need amongst those of the Blind who have not time nor inclination to learn the contractions, the Society will issue further portions of the Scriptures in this form.

Gospels are also issued in Welsh, Spanish, Italian, and other European and Oriental languages, full particulars of which may be obtained on application to the Bible House, 146, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

16. The 3rd Examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held on the 12th, 13th and 14th July, at the School for the Blind, Wavertree, Liverpool (by kind permission of the Committee and Mr. W. Littlewood, Superintendent).

The Examination commenced at 9.30 a.m. on the 12th, and the following is the time-table:—

Tuesday, 9.30 to 11.30, Theoretical Braille and Reading. 12 to 1.0, Arithmetic. 2.30 to 3.0, Braille Writing. 3.0 to 5.0, History of the Education of the Blind and Reading.

Wednesday, 10.0 to 1.0, Manual Work. 2.30 to 5.0, Practical Teaching, Braille Music, Manual Work and Typewriting.

Thursday, 10.0 to 1.0, Manual Work. 2.30 to 5.0, Practical Teaching.

17. A meeting of the Executive Committee of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held at the offices of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, on 21st May, at 11 a.m.

There were present Sir Francis and Lady Campbell, Miss Garaway, Rev. St. Clare Hill, M.A., Messrs. W. Hy. Illingworth, W. Littlewood, S. Maddocks, A. P. Pearson, B.A., H. W. P. Pine, Henry Stainsby and Henry J. Wilson (Chairman). Apologies for non-attendance were received from Rev. T. Barnard, M.A. and Messrs. A. B. Norwood, M.A. and W. M. Stone.

Specimen copies of the Rules of Arithmetic for the Blind were produced.

The Sub-Committee appointed to deal with the question of model lessons presented their report, and on the motion of Mr. Pine, seconded by Mr. Littlewood, the report was unanimously adopted and Lady Campbell was cordially thanked for the conspicuous part she had taken in drafting it. It was resolved to send copies of the report to the Committees of the Schools for the Blind, at the same time suggesting that facilities should be afforded to the teachers in the schools to take advantage of the suggestions made. It was also decided to purchase copies of all the books recommended in the report for the College Library.

The report is printed under a separate heading "Model lessons in teaching blind children," on page 356.

The Hon. Registrar reported that 37 forms had been received from candidates for examination this year. Each form was examined and those of the candidates approved by the Committee were initialled by the Hon. Registrar. It was resolved that in future an additional fee of 2/6 should be charged in the case of all application forms received after date.

It was resolved to ask the Fellows to consider what, if any, steps should be taken to provide Diplomas, etc., to those who should be appointed to Fellowships.

18. A meeting of the National Committee for the Employment of the Blind was held at the office of Gardner's Trust, on June 25th, when there were present: Messrs. Illingworth, Pine, Priestley, Stainsby, Stott, and H. J. Wilson in the Chair. The Hon. Secretary, Mr. Pine, gave a clear and full statement of what had taken place since the last meeting of the Committee,

and then there was a prolonged discussion on the question of further action. Several very important decisions were arrived at, and immediate action was decided on in regard to certain questions. A very interesting and instructive paper was read by Mr. Stainsby on the all-important subject of "New Trades and Employments for the Blind." The Committee sat from 11.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., with only a brief interval for lunch.

19. A new printing press has been installed at the British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W., towards the cost of which Gardner's Trust for the Blind has made a substantial grant.

Hitherto it has been the practice to print on wet paper, the obvious disadvantages being that the paper was difficult to handle, while the dots were liable to be damaged before they were dried. By the new process no wetting is necessary, the specially manufactured paper being momentarily softened by the action of heat applied electrically. Electricity provides the power for driving the press, which can be run at varying speeds without the use of shafting and a series of pulleys. The speed at which the press embosses is enormously in excess of any previous records; four-page sheets of interlined or interpointed matter are printed by one impression. Experts pronounce the writing as being exceedingly pleasant to the touch. One European correspondent, himself the Editor and Printer of a Braille magazine, writes as follows:—

"Dear Mr. Stainsby,

I have just received the June number of *Progress*, and I must congratulate you with all my heart, and thank you on behalf of the Blind for the new press you have invented, as I cannot but regard it as a gift to the world. You would laugh at me if you saw with what pleasure I am sitting and rubbing (not reading) my fingers up and down, to the right and to the left, in pure delight at the excellent print."

The Association is now busily engaged in producing new stereotyping machines. Of these we hope to write shortly.

20. At the Annual Meeting of the Yorkshire School for the Blind, held on June 14th, when the Lord Mayor of York presided, the following resolution, proposed by Mr. E. H. Howard (lately H.M. Inspector of Schools), and seconded by Councillor Sanderson Long, M.D., was carried unanimously :—

“That the wage-earning capacity developed by the Blind, as the result of training provided at the public expense, should tend to the reduction of rate expenditure, and, to this end, this Meeting calls the attention of Local Authorities to the fact that the providing of work for the Blind in their own workshops is true economy.”

It was further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to each of the Local Authorities within the County of York.

21. The following is quoted from the *Glasgow Herald*, and shows how the Glasgow Municipal Corporation have decided to supply the Blind with literature :—“The Libraries Committee recommend that 200 volumes in Braille and Moon type, costing about £30, and copies of magazines, in Braille type, costing about £5 annually, be placed in the Townhead Library ; that an arrangement be entered into with the Incorporated National Lending Library for the Blind of London for obtaining on loan for three months at a time, 25 volumes for the use of the Blind, at a cost of £7 10s. per annum, plus cost of carriage ; and that it be remitted to the Sub-Committee to confer with the Directors of the Royal Asylum, and of the Mission to the Outdoor Blind, on the question of increasing the usefulness of the Libraries of those Institutions.” The following Public Libraries have also started providing books for the Blind of their District this year, by means of the National Lending Library, viz. : Aston Manor, Hammersmith, Islington, Norwich, and Sunderland, thus bringing the number up to 23.

22. The 30th Annual Meeting of the North London Homes for Aged Christian Blind Men and Women, 65 to 77, Hanley Road, Crouch Hill, N., was held in the Jubilee Hall for the Blind, on May 31st. The Report was read, and showed that

the year closed without a deficit on any of its funds, while the Thanksgiving appeal to raise £3,000 had been crowned with success. The report, which was a review of 30 years, rather than of one year's work, mentioned that 448 inmates had been admitted, and had shared the benefits of the Home for periods ranging from a few months to 27 years. The property, which consisted of eight freehold houses, Jubilee Hall and Laundry, had been purchased and adapted at a cost of nearly £16,000, while for all purposes upwards of £90,000 had been raised. There are now 121 inmates in the Home.

23. On Wednesday, April 27th, a Service of a special character took place in Erdington Parish Church. It was organized by Mr. Harry E. Platt, Organist and Choirmaster of the Church for nearly twenty years, on behalf of the Henry Stainsby Pension and Relief Fund for the Blind, inaugurated about twelve months ago to supply a long-felt need amongst the necessitous Blind of Birmingham and District.

The musical portion of the Service, which was fully choral, was rendered by the Choir of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis being sung to "Smart in F." The Anthem was Goss's "O! praise the Lord of Heaven," in which the Choir distinguished themselves by their precision of attack and beautiful tone. The Service reflected great credit upon the teachers of the Institution.

An eloquent sermon was preached by the Rev. the Hon. R. E. Adderley, from the words, "I thirst." The preacher impressed upon his hearers the necessity of cultivating an unselfish and practical religion, which seeks to do good not only spiritually but also temporally. He particularly drew attention to the example of the great Master, who went about doing not only good to the souls of men, but also to their bodies, emphasizing his tender care towards the Blind. He expressed a hope that those present were thirsting to do good, and would seize the opportunity now presented to them. The collection amounted to £10 10s. 6d.

24. The following books in Braille have recently been

added to the Free Library, Oxford:—Aristotle's Ethics, A. C. Bradley's Lectures on Macbeth, Chaucer's Legend of Fair Women, Demosthenes Philippics—Books 1-3, A. Edersheim's Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah, The General Epistles in Greek, The Epistle of St. Ignatius in Greek, Homer's Iliad—Books 1-4, Institutes of Gaius, Johnson's Europe in the 16th Century, R. Potts' Summary of the Institutes of Gaius.

25. A correspondent in *The Times* gave last month an interesting statement in regard to the history of Belgrave Chapel, which was erected in 1812, and where the Rev. H. J. R. Marston, well known to most of our readers, is incumbent. It is said that at one time there were 85 members of the legislature reckoned amongst its adherents. "The church is now threatened with demolition. The authorities of the Grosvenor Estate, who have been generous subscribers to the upkeep of the Chapel, decline to renew the lease that has just terminated, and, it is understood, propose to utilise the site for secular purposes. The appeal of the congregation, endorsed by the Bishop of the diocese, for the continued existence of the church under its present auspices having been hitherto unsuccessful, the congregation have appointed a committee to prevent, if possible, the destruction of what they regard as a much-needed provision for their school of churchmanship. The present Incumbent, the Rev. H. J. R. Marston, late Fellow of Durham University, is gifted with remarkable impressiveness as a preacher, and has met the infirmity of blindness with singular courage, and is noted for his graceful scholarship and general culture. Strong feeling has been aroused on the part of the congregation, in view of the threatened destruction of an ancient landmark in the religious life of London, and of the work now carried on in connection therewith, and the scattering of the congregation."

26. We referred in a previous number to the new magazine called *Comrades*, published by the British and Foreign Blind Association, and we are pleased to hear that this excellent

magazine for children is proving a great success. Last month it received the well deserved commendation of Miss Helen Keller, who wrote to Mr. Stainsby, the Secretary-General of the Association, a letter, from which the following words are an extract: "I appreciate highly *Comrades*, it is a delightful magazine, and must inspire the minds of the young with noble, helpful thoughts."

27. The Annual Meeting of the Royal Normal College for the Blind was held on April 22nd, at Seaford House, when Lord Howard de Walden presided and musical selections were rendered by some of the students. Excellent addresses were given by the Chairman, Miss Adler, L.C.C., and the Right Hon. George Wyndham, M.P. All the speakers deservedly eulogised the splendid work organised and carried on at the College by Sir Francis and Lady Campbell.

28. We are pleased to note that at the Manchester Industrial Exhibition, just closed, Henshaw's Blind Asylum has been awarded a Gold Medal for "excellence of work done" at its stall in the Exhibition. The exhibit included basket-making, mat-making, Swedish weaving, machine-knitting, wool and rag rug-making, and typewriting, all in operation.

29. Miss H. E. Boord, 8, Stanley Gardens, London, W., is anxious to hear of a lady of leisure, living in London, who would be willing to devote a good deal of time to certain honorary secretarial duties in connection with a well-known Institution for the Blind. She must know Braille and be willing to learn Esperanto.

30. The Association Valentin Haüy has just completed a general catalogue of music, printed in Braille, in every country in the world. The catalogue gives the names of the authors, the titles of the works, the establishment where the works are printed, and the price of them. This book ought to be a great boon to blind musicians. The first part contains music for the

piano, and consists of 80 pages, printed in ordinary type. The price is 85 centimes, and it can be obtained from the Association Valentin Haüy, 9, Rue Duroc, Paris.

31. Mr. McGregor, the Vice-President of the Executive Council in the newly-formed Cabinet of the Commonwealth of Australia is almost totally blind. He is a member of the Second Chamber and also a member of Senate.

32. An interesting article on Preventable Blindness, with many illustrations, appeared in McClure's Magazine for April. It shows clearly how thoroughly and earnestly the terrible scourge, ophthalmia neonatorum, is being fought in the United States of America. The article ends with an eloquent appeal by Dr. F. Park Lewis, the recognised leader of the present crusade against this appalling disease, in which he says "It should be a self-imposed task on every society for the prevention of cruelty to children, upon every charity organisation society, upon every legislator, upon every citizen, to promulgate a knowledge of the dangers which menace the babies of the land; and if they and we unite our efforts (for no movement should be attempted except with the authority and co-operation of the organised medical profession), this pathological anachronism of a controllable and preventable infection, which continues to work havoc and disaster in spite of twentieth-century knowledge and methods, will be robbed of its virulence, and comfort and happiness and prosperity shall be assured for multitudes of children yet unborn."

33. We have received a copy of the third report of the New York Association for the Blind which, as usual, is full of interest and of excellent illustrations, but want of space precludes us from referring fully to its context in this number. This Association was organised by the Misses Holt, in November, 1905. Miss Winifred Holt has recently been on a visit to England, collecting information about the Blind, especially in regard to the Workshops. President Taft established a precedent last May, when

he dictated a letter to a blind stenographer just after he had opened the Fair for the Actors' Fund of America. Last year the Premier of New Zealand dictated to a blind stenographer the speech with which he opened the Colonial Parliament, but it is not believed that an American President had ever before engaged the services of such a person, and the incident, therefore, caused much satisfaction to the Association.

When the President went to the booth to see the blind people weaving and making brooms, he was asked by Miss Winifred Holt, Secretary of the Association, to dictate something to the blind stenographer. "Are you able to take what I say?" he asked, and he was much amused to discover that already every word he had uttered since his entry, had been recorded.

"Dear me," he said, "this is as embarrassing as one's first experience with a telephone."

Then he dictated the following: "I have a great deal of interest in furnishing to the Blind the means of enjoying life, and of forgetting the deprivation which is theirs."

The letter was typewritten and sent to Washington for the President to sign.

34. It is with much regret that our notes on the reports which have been kindly sent to us of many Institutions, are crowded out of this number, but we hope to print them in our next number.

35. On March 28th, a Fête d'aviation was given at New York for the benefit of the New York Association for the Blind, and a very pretty and artistic souvenir has been printed, with portraits and messages from the best known aviators. It also contains a most interesting letter from Miss Helen Keller to Miss Winifred Holt, from which we cull the following:—

"What a beautiful idea is embodied in your Fête d'aviation! How fittingly it symbolizes the aspirations of the Blind, and the patience of those who dream and labour long, until their winged hopes really fly.

Our ideal is to give every blind person a chance to become

an educated citizen, a wage-earner, and a sharer in the work for the common good. This ideal is high above actual conditions. We know that. Still, we have had enough success to know that our ideal is right, and that in time it may be realised. It cannot be realised, however, without the generous co-operation of the people I hope your guests will not forget the symbol of the Fête—that man dreams first, then works and rises to the heights of realisation, that no one can rise above the circle of a narrow life without the aid and encouragement of his fellow men.”

THE UNIONS OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

The Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union. A Meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the rooms of Gardner's Trust, on the 9th April. There were present Mr. H. J. Wilson, in the Chair, Miss Bainbrigge, Sir Francis Campbell, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mr. Lempriere, Miss Moon, Mr. Stainsby, Miss Taylor and Mr. Guy Campbell. Miss Burgess also attended.

Regrets for inability to attend the meeting were reported on behalf of Mrs. Inglis, Sir John Brickwood and Mr. Evans.

A letter from Miss Wheeler dated the 25th March was read. The letter enquired whether it was possible for the Union to make grants in order that Hon. District Representatives could employ the assistance of blind teachers. It was pointed out to Miss Wheeler that this could not be done, and that the very object in having a Hon. District Representative was to try to get local Committees formed who would find funds for the wants of their own local Blind.

It was reported that each member of the Union had received two copies of the 1909 Report, and each Hon. District Representative 250, and that Miss Hall had replaced Miss Romilly as representative for Bromley North.

Miss Burgess reported that she had been receiving forms from Foot's Cray, Bexley Heath, Beckenham, Worthing, Romsey,

and East Grinstead, and that some 250 additional forms had thus come to hand. She also intimated that she had secured the services of twenty-six ladies to assist in visiting the Blind in West London.

Suggestions drafted by the Hon. Secretary, for forming local and district Committees were submitted to the meeting, and the principles set forth were approved, but the form of wording was referred to a Sub-Committee.

Miss Taylor reported on behalf of Mrs. Goodhart that she was succeeding in finding helpers in Sandhurst, Wokingham, Newbury, Maidenhead, Windsor, Lambourne, Hampstead Norris, Thatcham, Abingdon, and hoped soon to add Faringdon and Wantage. Mrs. Goodhart had visited many of the Blind herself, and was convinced that if she could persuade people just to go but once to verify particulars, they were almost sure to go again when and where needed.

The Chairman raised the question whether it would not be to the advantage of the Union to have a permanent office which could be occupied by the Organising Secretary when not engaged in actually travelling on behalf of the Union, and the idea met with general approval.

Upon the motion of Sir Francis Campbell seconded by Miss Bainbrigge; Miss Taylor, Miss Harris Browne, The Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Stainsby and Mr. Wilson were unanimously elected as an After-care Sub-Committee to the Union.

The Executive Committee also met on May 7th when there were present Mr. H. J. Wilson in the Chair, Miss Bainbrigge, Miss Taylor, Sir John Brickwood, Sir Francis Campbell, Messrs. Evans, Johnson, Lempriere, and Guy Campbell, Hon. Sec.

In a few prefatory remarks the Chairman referred to the national sorrow caused by the death of King Edward VII, and to his splendid life work not only as a peacemaker, but as a man who always faithfully and earnestly endeavoured to do the best for all classes of his subjects throughout the Empire.

The Chairman reported that he had again inspected rooms at Denison House and he recommended the Committee to take the

room No. 47, as the rent for the first year had been promised by an anonymous friend. Upon the motion of Mr. Guy Campbell seconded by Miss Bainbrigge, it was agreed that Mr. Wilson and Mr. Johnson should complete all arrangements for securing the room for the use of the Union, for providing necessary furniture and for fixing a gasfire and electric fittings.

It was pointed out that Miss Bennett was now working for the After-Care Committee and was paid by an anonymous donor. The After-Care Committee, however, offered to let Miss Bennett work by courtesy for the Union for a few hours daily, in order to assist in carrying on the necessary correspondence.

The kind offer was accepted with much gratitude.

It was reported that an insurance had been effected on behalf of the Organising Secretary covering all travelling risks.

The Chairman reported that he had received and accepted Miss Burgess's resignation as Organising Secretary as from May 11th.

It was reported that Miss Wheeler was trying to arrange a meeting at Eastbourne at the end of June.

Regrets for inability to attend the meeting were reported on behalf of Mrs. Inglis, Miss Moon and the Rev. St. Clare Hill.

A written report from Miss Burgess was presented in which she stated that since the last meeting the names of 205 more blind people had been obtained, and that 18 more ladies, thus making a total of 43 in all, had promised to visit the Blind in various parts of London. It was also reported that Miss Moore had consented to act as Hon. District Representative at Worthing, and that several blind persons in London had been put in the way of getting the assistance they needed.

The suggestions for the formation of local and district Committees, and also hints as to procedure, were carefully considered and amended, and referred to a small sub-committee for final revision.

The Chairman reported that the Association of Subscribers was now definitely merged into the Social Welfare Association, and that it was anxious to work most cordially with the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union, and also that it was approaching the Borough Councils with the object in view of making the notification of Ophthalmia Neonatorum compulsory.

Mr. Wilson reported that he had received both a letter and a visit from Mrs. Goodhart, and that she was doing most enthusiastic and excellent work in the county of Berks.

Miss Bainbrigg suggested that Mr. Cialis might be useful in visiting the Blind in Hampshire, and it was agreed that she and Mr. Wilson should interview him and bring up a report at the next meeting.

A Meeting of the Executive Committee was held on June 4th. There were present: Mr. H. J. Wilson, in the Chair, Miss Bainbrigg, Miss Taylor, Sir Francis Campbell, Mr. Stuart Johnson, Mr. Stainsby, and Mr. Guy Campbell.

The Chairman reported that No. 47 in Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, had been rented as an office from the 31st May, and that an anonymous gift of £5 had been made for the furnishing. The arrangements for the furnishing had been carried out principally by Miss Taylor, to whom a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded.

The Chairman read a letter from Miss Austin of the National Lending Library, wherein it was stated that the Committee are prepared to make a special reduction in their charges to Hon. Representatives of, and Societies formed by, this Union. The offer was gratefully accepted.

The Chairman reported that he had been in communication with Mr. Cialis, and that he would be willing to visit Southampton and S. Hampshire to look up cases and report to the Union, and it was agreed that the offer be accepted.

It was agreed that the Chairman should write to the Duke of Devonshire, asking him if he would preside at a meeting proposed to be held at Eastbourne.

Regrets for inability to attend the meeting were reported on

behalf of Mrs. Inglis, Miss Moon, Sir John Brickwood, Mr. Evans, Rev. St. Clare Hill and Mr. Lempriere.

Letters were read from the Orsett Union, Grays, Essex, in connection with the case of Henry Mutlow Slater.

It was agreed that the letters to the newspapers should be typed at the Royal Normal College, and issued, if possible, by the first week in July.

The resolution from the North of England Union re the employment of the Blind was submitted.

The Hon. Secretary reported that he had sent another 200 leaflets on Prevention of Blindness to Miss Elliott of the Social Welfare Association. He further reported, that Miss Elliott had been most assiduous in distributing these leaflets, and that there was every reason to hope that unanimous action would soon be possible among the Medical Officers of Health in London.

North of England Union The annual meeting and conference was held on May 6th and 7th, at the Town Hall, Sunderland.

On May 6th, at 2.30 p.m., the Workshops for the Blind were visited; at 3.30 p.m., a visit was paid to the County Eye Infirmary; at 5 p.m., there was a meeting of the General Committee held at the Town Hall, when Miss Edith Wright's resignation was received and accepted with great regret. In reply to a resolution expressing regret and warm appreciation of the work she has done, Miss Wright thanked the Committee for their kind words, and added that she had greatly felt the strain of the work, and thought it wiser to have some months complete rest. On May 7th the annual meeting took place at 11 a.m., when the Chair was taken by Mr. T. W. Backhouse, who, after prayer, made some opening remarks; and the annual report and statement of accounts were presented. At 2 p.m., there was a conference, when the Mayor presided, and a joint paper was read on "The Needs of the Blind," the writers being Mr. G. I. Walker, Schoolmaster of the Sunderland Council School for the Blind, and Mr. John Ramsay, Visitor to the local Home Teaching Society. The discussion was opened by Mr. Albert Siddall, of Rochdale.

The annual report, which is for the fourth year of the Union, gives evidence of much activity, especially in breaking fresh ground where there had been no previous organisation. Cordial thanks are given to Miss Wright, and the records of work largely due to her incentive are acknowledged. Miss Wright, to whose resignation we refer in paragraph 9, has been unanimously co-opted a member of the General Committee.

Reference in the report is made to the prevention of ophthalmia in the newborn, and also to the formation of the Union of Unions, consisting of elected representatives from each Union. The North of England Union has adopted the same motto as that of the Metropolitan and adjacent Counties Union, viz.: "Domine, dirige nos."

The temporary official address of the North of England Union is 17, Brazenose Street, Manchester, to which all communications should be addressed, or to the Hon. Secretary, Miss Heywood, Claremont, Manchester.

The Midland Counties Union. This Union has issued its first annual report. It is very interesting reading, and a record of steady, progressive work. It states very truly that "before we can care for the Blind we must find out who and where they are, and to this task the first year of our work has been devoted." . . . "It will be seen that, leaving out the three counties, Hereford, Staffs., and Warwick, where registration is for the present deferred, we have altogether a total of 2,020 persons, their names, ages, addresses, occupations, means of livelihood, and training, if any, all registered on the card index system, and ready for use and verification by local representatives. It will be further noticed that in two counties—Oxon. and Bucks.—our numbers are considerably in excess of those given by the census. . . . The work of building up a visiting organisation over these rural districts is necessarily slow and difficult. We have first to prove the need, and next to find the right people—the few who really care, and have both power and will to help—to take up the cause and bring their local knowledge and influence to set our general scheme on a local working basis."

CONFERENCE IN 1911.

The 3rd Triennial International Conference on the Blind will take place at Exeter, on July 3rd to 7th, both days inclusive. On Sunday, July 2nd, there will be services in the various Churches and Chapels of the city, at which blind clergymen and blind organists will officiate, as far as possible. There will be an Exhibition of goods manufactured by the Blind, but there will be no prizes offered. The proceedings will commence at 2 p.m., on Monday, July 3rd, with the formal opening of the Exhibition, to be immediately followed by the opening of the Conference. There will be morning and afternoon sessions daily, and the following papers and their respective readers have already been agreed on:—

- 1.—“The General Pensioning of the Blind, etc.,” by Mr. Alrik Lundberg, of Stockholm.
- 2.—“The Physiognomy of the Blind,” by Mr. Alex. Mell, of Vienna.
- 3.—“Training in the Requirements of Social Life at Home and in Society, and the best methods of securing it,” by Lady Campbell, of the Royal Normal College.
- 4.—“Blind Women’s Interests,” by Miss Edith Wright, late Organizing Secretary of the North of England Union.
- 5.—“Libraries for the Blind,” by Miss E. W. Austin, Secretary of the National Lending Library for the Blind.
- 6.—“After-Care, and the better and more general Employment of the Blind,” by Mr. Henry Stainsby, Secretary-General of the British and Foreign Blind Association.
- 7.—“Teachers of the Blind: their training, qualifications, and reasonable prospects of Employment,” by the Rev. St. Clare Hill, M.A., Principal of the Leatherhead School for the Blind.
- 8.—“A retrospect of the more recent Musical Education of the Blind, and Suggestions as to the Future,” by Mr. H. C. Warrilow, F.R.C.O.

One session will be devoted to a discussion of the Report of the National Committee for the Employment of the Blind. On one evening there will be a Concert by blind vocalists and

instrumentalists—the music being mainly by blind composers ; on another evening an Address will be given by a blind Lecturer, and on another, there will be an informal Meeting, with discussion, on matters of general interest to workers among the Blind.

The local Committee will arrange for entertaining those who come from abroad, or from long distances, if they express in good time a desire for such hospitality.

The preliminary circular will be issued very shortly, and it is earnestly hoped that the Managers of the various Institutions and Societies will make arrangements for attending the Conference, and will specially co-operate in making the Exhibition of work and appliances of interest.

MODEL LESSONS ON TEACHING BLIND CHILDREN.

The following recommendations have been sent by the College of Teachers of the Blind to the Committees of all Schools for the Blind in the United Kingdom :—

It does not seem feasible at present, to arrange for “ Model Lessons ” to be given to the Teachers in the various Schools for the Blind, therefore we recommend the following alternative schemes :—

1. Whenever there is a gathering of Teachers of the Blind, as at Examinations or Conferences, arrangements might be made for short papers to be read on the best method of teaching various subjects. Such papers should set forth the objects to be obtained by the lessons, the materials and illustrations to be used, the difficulties encountered on account of the blindness of the children, and the best method of overcoming them. A course of Study, and a list of the books that have been found useful in preparing the lessons, or for reading to the children, could be added.

2. If a teacher has the knowledge requisite to teach a certain subject, but from a failure to put herself in the blind child's place, cannot devise a suitable method of imparting it, arrangements might be made for the teacher to spend a week in some school where the subject is successfully taught.

3. The teachers in Schools for the Blind will derive great benefit from visiting Schools for the Sighted in charge of wide-awake, up-to-date Teachers.

The investigations that are being made in many countries in regard to the development of children, leads to constant changes in the method of teaching different subjects.

Teachers in Schools for the Sighted learn of new methods at their Annual Conferences, and by reading Educational Journals; the teachers of the Blind would derive great benefit from the same sources.

4. The Library for the teachers should contain a supply of modern text books, and also some books on the principles and methods of teaching.

The following list of books has been prepared from the recommendations of the Heads of leading Training Colleges:—

- I. Welton, J. . . "Methods and Principles of Teaching."
- II. Findlay, Professor "Principles of Class Teaching."
- III. Adamson, J. W. "Practice of Instruction."
- IV. Raymont . . . "Principles of Education."
- V. James, Professor "Talks with Teachers on Psychological Subjects."
- VI. Adams, Professor "Exposition and Illustration in Teaching."
- VII. Barnett, P. A. . . "Teaching and Organization."
- VIII. " " "Common Sense in Education."
- IX. McMurray, C. A. "General Method."
- X. Dexter & Garlick "A New Manual of Method."

5. Nearly all Educational Councils arrange courses of "Lectures on Method" for the teachers engaged by them, and the teachers in the Institutions for the Blind could attend

some of these lectures. It could probably be arranged for them to attend courses in some Training College.

6. The members of the Governing Committee should be persuaded that blind children need the very best teachers, and especially teachers who possess enthusiasm.

IMPRESSIONS OF A TRIP TO AUSTRALIA.

Those whose good fortune it is to spend a short time in a distant country are often asked, both by their hosts and others, how its institutions compare with what they have been accustomed to in the land which they regard as their home. Questions of this kind have entrapped even the experienced man of letters. Would that the world might be spared the spectacle of a Froude or a Max O'Rell pronouncing judgment upon countries which they have never seen, except for a few weeks. With regard to the present article, the statements therein contained are, I believe, accurate, but the expressions of opinion must be regarded as purely personal, as I was hardly more than ten weeks in Australia, and I was unable to visit either Queensland or Western Australia.

The most noticeable feature of work for the Blind in the Commonwealth is the thorough manner in which for years it has been organised. It is true that there does not exist any union of societies, but the capital of each of the states has its band of workers, so that there is no district in which something is not being done.

Again, the Government is more definitely interested in the institutions there than here. Many, if not all receive a pound-per-pound grant from the State, that is to say, a pound for every pound collected in subscriptions. In addition, the "Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind" is largely supported by contributions from the funds of town councils. Strange as it seems in a new country, education is not compulsory for the Blind of Australia, although a bill is now before parliament to make it so.

The first city I visited was Sydney, which contains two institutions. (1) The Blind, Deaf and Dumb Institution. (2) The Sydney Industrial Blind Institution. The former takes blind (and also deaf-mute) children, and gives them a good elementary education. The wisdom of attempting to educate together young people suffering from different afflictions seems very questionable. But if such an enterprise could really meet with success, Mr. Watson, the genial superintendent, is the man to ensure it. The school is well situated and is doing good work. One of the pupils, Alice Betteridge, is a blind, deaf-mute, but is an extremely bright child, and there is no fear that in the future she will sink into the ranks of those whom nobody wants. Unfortunately, owing to the lack of compulsory education, there are sixty-seven children growing up in ignorance who might be in the school.

On a rather larger scale, at least with regard to the Blind, is the school of Industry for the Blind, which is situated in the heart of Sydney. Its activities comprise the training and employment of sightless workers, men and women in various trades, a home for the latter (in one of the suburbs), and a home-teaching society. It cannot be denied that good work is done here, especially in the mat department, but I did not see the blind women's home. The home-teaching society, which is much like others of its kind, maintains an excellent library of embossed books, which are lent free. It was claimed that no blind man or woman, who was willing to work, need starve, as the Institution was able and willing to accommodate all who were likely to apply for either instruction or employment.

Mr. Hedger, the superintendent, like all the managers of Institutions, was most kind to me, and seemed to be open to new ideas. Unfortunately I did not see Mr. Mattingley, the home teacher and successor to Mr. H. S. Prescott, whose removal to the mother country has been a very serious loss to the work of the Blind in New South Wales.

There are three organizations in Melbourne concerned with the Blind of Victoria. (1) The Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind. "In the City of Business" the public interest taken

in this school is enormous. There are three hundred life-governors, and last year two gentlemen offered themselves as honorary dentists.

The treasurer has recently received a donation of £21 from the Melbourne City Council, as well as the government grant. Of the 93 pupils only 27 are children. This fact is attributed by Mr. Hogarth, the superintendent, to a decrease in juvenile blindness consequent on improved surgical methods. Three blind teachers are employed, and, besides the usual English subjects, modelling in plastecine is taught. But some of the parents are fond of causing their children to outstay the vacations. Sufficient "sighted" labour is here and elsewhere employed to make the work of the blind go as far as possible. There is an orchestra of seventeen performers, which I did not myself hear, but Mr. Vlakhos, of London, who has since visited Melbourne, tells me that they play exceedingly well. I regret that the exigencies of time prevented my seeing the Institution with sufficient thoroughness to do it justice, or have any converse with its inmates.

(2) "The Victorian Braille Writer's Association." This was founded about fifteen years ago by Mrs. May Harrison, and she has ever since worked as its indefatigable honorary secretary. No one will ever know the extent of the services which this lady has given to the Blind. Owing to the clear skies of Australia, it is no easy thing to induce people to take up an indoor hobby. But by Mrs. Harrison's means, 680 persons were induced to commence learning Braille for the purpose of acting as scribes, and although but 141 have continued as volunteers, a library, mainly their work, consisting of 4171 volumes, has been built up. One of these volunteers, Mrs. R. H. Rodda, has just retired, after having transcribed 359 volumes—the greatest number probably, on record. The writers are taught free, and the chief bookselling library is most kind in lending books to transcribe.

How broad is the view which the promoters of the library take may be gathered from the fact that the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne is one of its patrons. Indeed, a great

deal of the controversial literature of his church has been transcribed, which takes its place beside such tracts as "Universalism Asserted" and Bellamy's "Looking Backward." The association also teaches the Blind to read in their own homes, which had been done in a small way for many years before its foundation.

(3) The "Association for the Advancement of the Blind," founded shortly after the abovementioned Association. This is one of the few democratic ventures of the Blind. It exists for the purpose of providing employment and amusement for its members, who must be wholly or partially blind. They number 240 men and women, scattered about in branches all over the state, and represent at least 20 per cent. of the blind population of Victoria. As a result of their activity, meetings and socials have taken place at regular intervals, and at some of these, matters of interest to their class have been discussed, though the members in conclave do not spend their whole time in talking "shop." An annual Picnic has long been a feature of this movement. A Braille Correspondence Club has been organised, and free postage for embossed literature secured. The status of the blind citizen as a voter has been improved, and by means of a special permit he has been granted the privilege of travelling with his guide on the railways for single fare. A tea agency has been established, and a Home is being built for those unable to work.

In the course of a reception held by this wonderful union, to which all fellow-workers were invited, I was asked to give an account of what was being done in England, but I could say nothing new to an army of experts, who had watched the course of affairs in the home country for many years. I, however, induced them to pass a resolution that a Congress of Typhlophiles ought to be held, and this was done without discussion. The majority of the Blind in Australia are ardently favourable to a Congress, but some of the institutional managers, or perhaps their committees, appear to think that there is no money in it. No doubt, as public opinion is brought to bear upon the question, better counsels will prevail. I

cannot dismiss this part of the subject without a mention of Miss Tilly Aston, L.C.T.L., author, musician and founder of the "Association for the Advancement of the Blind." She is an old student of the local school, and has given herself unswervingly to the betterment of the lot of her fellow-creatures.

In spite of all that is done, and in spite of the prosperity noticeable everywhere, the streets of Melbourne swarm with beggars. The Institution has been accused of closing its doors to many who would like to earn an honest livelihood and, from what I myself saw, I do not think that all the good intentions in the world will make up for an excess of red tape. Allowing for the incurable loafer, the percentage of sightless beggars in such a wealthy city is an evil which is surely capable of cure.

There are two Institutions for the Blind of South Australia: (1) The Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Institution at Brighton. Of this little need be said. It is excellently managed, but considerable additions might be made to its appliances for physical training. Mr. Johnson, the Superintendent, is an Irishman with large sympathies, but the same may be said, as in the case of a similar school in Sydney: no one man, however capable or broad-minded, can educate two classes so widely different as the blind, and the deaf and dumb.

As readers of "The Blind" will remember, Mr. Johnson visited Europe some years ago. He considered that America was behind England in the education of the Blind, but ahead of her in that of deaf mutes. On the other hand, he was amazed at the poverty-stricken air of some of the Institutions of this country. Three of the teachers at Brighton are blind, and an extremely good education is given to a number of very happy children. It should be added that Mr. Johnson has done good service in exposing those beggars who sham blindness, and he has met with a good deal of opprobrium at the hands of a not always discerning public.

(2) "The Royal Institution for the Blind." If I say rather more about this than about other Institutions, it is not because the latter are not well managed, but rather that I have been in closer touch with it since its foundation 25 years ago. The

School at Brighton had been started in 1874, but during the first eleven years, its management had been a disgrace to Anglo-Saxondom. But, even if the authorities had acted up to their lights, the school was never intended to give more than an elementary English education to its pupils. What became of them on passing through its curriculum nobody seemed to know or care. Thus, in 1885, many of its alumni were found to be residing in the "Destitute Asylum," or eking out a miserable existence in holes and corners. The foundation of an Industrial School for the Blind was suggested by Mr. A. W. Hendry, and to it was added the department of Home Teaching, the work of which was assigned to Mr. Hendry himself. To-day there are 210 Blind on the books of the Institution, 80 of whom are employed within its walls, and engaged in the making of baskets, brushes, mats, American brooms, cane-chairs, as well as hair-curling. Last year these workers received £4,200 in wages, and £3,100 in charitable supplements. The business done was twice as great as the amount of capital at the disposal of the Board, and although the Government gives a "pound-per-pound grant," £1 18s. 11d. was paid to workers for every pound of public money contributed. The contracts received, include some from the Government and the Corporation of Adelaide. The Library contains something like 2,000 volumes in Braille and Moon. Of these 374 have been embossed by the "Braille Writers' Association," the first to be founded in Australia. The Institution has a publishing department which issues "Morning," the only Braille magazine printed in Australia. There has recently been inaugurated an out-door training department, designed to train those Blind who cannot come into an Institution in small handicrafts, such as matmaking, basketmaking, chair-caning, canesplitting and haltermaking. Sixteen persons have already benefited by this instruction, and yet Mr. Hendry is not satisfied. But, for the matter of that, I don't think he ever will be.

He is backed by a most efficient Committee. I was invited to be present at meetings of the Board and also of the Finance Committee, and I can truthfully say that the accounts were scrutinized as if the Institution was on the brink of ruin.

But it must not be supposed that officialism reigns supreme. Indeed, I heard one of the women-workers declare that whatever might be said about the arrangements, she was glad to say that no attempt had ever been made to close the mouths of the workers. Nor must the Orchestra, with its blind Conductor, be forgotten. The latter, Herr Hans Bertram, was a pupil of Franz Abt in Berlin, and, by means of his new system of Braille music he has trained the band so well that no aids are necessary to induce them to keep time. He himself is able to play from memory all the sonatas of Beethoven. And last, but not least, it is worth recording that the schools for the Blind in Tasmania and Western Australia were founded from the "Royal Institution for the Blind."

If your readers will but use their imagination for the purpose of putting life into the above recital of facts, they will see that Australia is playing no mean part in work for the Blind.

W. H. DIXSON.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of THE BLIND.

HENSHAW'S BLIND ASYLUM,
OLD TRAFFORD,

28th June, 1910.

Sir,

In your last issue you kindly gave a short review of my recent publication, "History of the Education of the Blind," and in the course of this review you express regret that a notice of Mr. Alfred Hirst and his work for the Blind is not included in my book. In order to remove any false impression which this apparent omission may have given rise to, I hasten to explain that no one is more sorry than myself that I was unable to give a short biography of Mr. Hirst, but the fault is not mine, seeing I wrote to him, asking him kindly to supply me with some facts concerning himself and his work, for inclusion in my book, but received no reply to my letter.

Yours faithfully,

W. H. ILLINGWORTH.

The Blind.

VOL. III.

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OCTOBER 20TH, 1910.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before December 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. His Grace the Duke of Portland, K.G., has graciously consented to become President of the College of Teachers of the Blind.

2. The Right Honourable Viscount Cobham has been appointed a member of the Committee of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, in the room of Mr. P. Lyttelton Gell, who has resigned.

3. The following paragraph appeared in the "Times" of July 26th :—

"At the presentation of diplomas at the Royal College of Organists, Sir George Martin congratulated Sidney Anstey, of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, on gaining the "Lafontaine," (formerly known as the "Cart") Prize. This prize is awarded to the Associate securing the highest marks in the examination; on this occasion there were 226 candidates. This is the second time within three years that this valued prize has been won by a student of the Royal Normal College. Stanley Gregory and Edmund Johnson also received their diplomas as Associates, and Alfred Thompson as a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists.

It is a high tribute to the training given at the Royal Normal College for the Blind that during the year four students have passed the Associate Examination and three the Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists, two the first examination for Bachelor of Music at Durham, and one the Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Music on their first trial. The preparation for these examinations is under the direction of Mr. H. L. Balfour, Mr. Stewart Macpherson, and Mr. R. Boulcott-Newth."

It is truly a notable triumph for Mr. Anstey, as the organists come from all parts of the country, and many of them were taking the examination for the second and even the third time. This great success must be very gratifying to Sir Francis and Lady Campbell and the staff of professors in music. We heartily congratulate them and Mr. Anstey.

4. Mr. H. Lewis, an old student of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, at Worcester, and of St. John's College, Oxford, has taken his degree and obtained 2nd class Honours in Modern History. Mr. W. H. Jackson, formerly of the Royal Normal College for the Blind and Wadham College, Oxford, also took his degree and the same Honours. Both Mr. Lewis and Mr. Jackson intend to take Holy Orders.

5. Mr. C. F. Waudby, old student of Worcester College for the Blind, who is now at Queen's College, Oxford, has passed Moderations.

6. Mr. Hugh H. Berridge, a pupil at the School for the Blind, 10, Upper Avenue Road, London, N.W., succeeded in passing, last July, the examination for the Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists. Mr. Berridge is totally blind and only 19 years of age.

7. Miss Harriet Pyle, who has held the position of Matron of the Rockcliffe Home for Blind Women, since its opening in 1899., has been appointed Matron of the Industrial Home for Blind Women, Scarborough, a branch of the Yorkshire School for the Blind, in succession to Miss Sadgrove, who has taken up

a wider sphere of work as Organising Secretary of the North of England Union of all Agencies for the Blind.

8. We very much regret to announce the death of Mr. E. A. Young, the husband of Mrs. Young, who was the untiring and successful Hon. Secretary of the North Wales Home Teaching Society for the Blind for many years. We tender her our sincere sympathy in the irreparable loss she has sustained. Just a year ago we spent a most pleasant week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Young at their prettily situated house, 'Tanybryn,' when we spoke at the annual meeting of the North Wales Society, and it is difficult to realise that our kind and genial host on that occasion has passed away. Mr. Young was appointed by the late Lord Penrhyn Chief Manager of the Penrhyn quarries, and was a man of singular courage and tact, which were displayed in the quarry strikes which attracted much attention some years ago. He was Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the North Wales Training College, and took great interest in the Young Men's Christian Association, equipping at his own expense the fine gymnasium, the only condition imposed being that the words "Be straightforward" should be prominently displayed. These words formed the mainspring of his character. His thorough business qualifications were a great assistance to the North Wales Society.

9. It is with very great regret that we hear, just on going to press, of the death of Mr. William Martin, in his 74th year. He was Manager of the Royal Blind Asylum, Edinburgh, for over 30 years. Mr. Martin was at one time a most enthusiastic worker for the Blind. He always took a leading part in discussions at the Conferences, and wrote several leaflets on the question of trades for the Blind. About 17 years ago he severed his connection with the Blind Asylum, and founded a bedding manufactory with his son in George Street.

10. It is with much regret that we have to announce the death from heart failure in his 71st year of Mr. William Mead, the able superintendent of the Indigent Blind Visiting Society.

Mr. Mead's connection with the society began in 1867 and it may be truly said that from the date of his appointment to the date of his death he worked unceasingly on behalf of the Blind Poor of London. Though blind for the last fifty years of his life no task seemed to be beyond his power. His last great effort was the gathering together of 4,300 persons from all parts of the Metropolis at a Special Mission to the London Blind and their guides, which was held in the early part of the present year. He will be sorely missed by his many friends. The esteem in which he was held was shown in a marked manner at the funeral service held at the Cann Hall Road Baptist Chapel, Leytonstone, on the 17th September, when some 500 persons were present, of whom at least 400 were blind. We often enjoyed a talk with Mr. Mead on matters relating to the Blind, especially as to their spiritual welfare, and only a short time ago he was telling us of the successful mission organised by him last winter, and in which he was assisted by the blind teachers of the Indigent Blind Visiting Society and the Home Teaching Society. In "The Christian," of March 17th last, there was an account of the Mission, and the following is an extract therefrom:—

"It has been the privilege of Mr. W. Mead to organise a series of gatherings for afflicted men and women in the poorest possible circumstances for eleven successive years. The entire expenditure involved—and it is by no means a small sum—is defrayed by a lady.

The plan adopted on the occasion of this annual mission embraces every part of the Metropolis. The blind poor assemble from the immediate locality in which the gathering is taking place; and, of course, measures are taken for ensuring that the most needy are brought together, while on the other hand, the same people are not allowed to attend more than one meeting.

In the course of the present season five meetings have been held, at intervals of a month. The first took place at the Stratford Conference Hall, and was for the benefit of the Blind living east of Bow Bridge. The next gathering was at the Paddington Baths, Bayswater. The residents of Central London met at St. John's Square Wesleyan Chapel. No fewer than 888 were present at the People's Palace.

On Thursday last the fifth meeting took place at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, and was attended by more than six hundred blind men and women and their guides."

11. A totally blind man, Robert Wayman, undertakes the duties of town crier at Ely. Why should not other towns employ the Blind in this capacity?

12. Mr. J. H. Hewitt, Manager of the Workshops for the Blind, Belfast, is to be congratulated on the very satisfactory report made on the Institution and presented to the Local Government Board in Dublin in a report by their Inspector, Dr. Smyth, on Institutions for the Blind in Ireland. The following are extracts from the report:—

"Referring to the fact that 82 per cent. of the Blind in this Institution were able to earn their own living, he stated that 'this is a splendid testimonial to the efficient instruction and capable management, of which this Institution may be proud.'" "The Institution is run on purely commercial lines, and has to compete in the open market with all comers, and during the past 38 years it had benefitted the Blind in wages and gratuities to the amount of £70,000." "It has a benevolent as well as a commercial function, and suffers a pecuniary loss of £400 a year, incurred in gratuities and sick allowances." He further stated in his final comment, that "Undoubtedly a considerable proportion of the unprofitableness of some Institutions is due to imperfect training and inefficient management." "The Belfast Workshops show what can be done by good business capacity."

13. The reunion of Old Boys at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, Worcester, commenced on July 10th, with a sermon by the Rev. T. B. Dowdeswell, in the local church. On Wednesday, the 13th, Powyke Court was visited, where the College was formerly housed, and a steamer took the party along the river to Holt. In the evening the Old Boys dinner took place, when speech making was reduced to a minimum, and the Old Boy's Union was consolidated. Thursday morning there

was a celebration of Holy Communion in Whittington Church, with an address by the Rev. N. F. McNeile, and then a cricket match was held between old and present boys. The speech day in the afternoon was much like similar functions, but was none the less interesting on that account. Lord Cobham presided. In the evening there was an informal Concert, followed by a midnight cricket match, in which Mr. Spencer Palmer, a totally blind man, bowled out all the members of the other side. Before the gathering broke up, cheers were given for the host and hostess, Rev. T. and Mrs. Barnard, as well as for Mr. Siddall, who had organised the reunion from the standpoint of the Old Boys.

14. The Council of the British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W., have recently appointed Mr. H. C. Preece as Travelling Secretary, with the object of popularising the Association and raising funds. Mr. Preece is a blind Professional Lecturer who has made a considerable reputation on the lecture platform, both in London and the provinces, and his services have been placed absolutely at the disposal of the Association. He is also a Diocesan Reader in the Diocese of London, and can, therefore, preach at the afternoon and evening services. For the last two years he has been in charge of the well-known Men's Services at St. Peter's, Highgate Hill, which was founded by the Rev. J. E. Watts-Ditchfield. Mr. Preece is available, on behalf of the Association, for lectures, addresses and sermons, and for drawing-room meetings.

15. Miss Carolyn C. Van Marcom, Executive Secretary of the Committee on Prevention of Blindness, of the New York Association for the Blind, paid a visit to England in the summer to make full enquiries as to what is being done here in regard to the question of Prevention of Blindness. We had the pleasure of having an interview with her, and of giving her information on this subject.

16. In July last, two most interesting gatherings took place through the kindness of Miss I. M. Heywood, at Claremont,

Manchester, when on each occasion about 400 of the Blind of Manchester and Salford, including their guides, were most hospitably entertained. The weather was very fine, and the guests seemed to enjoy themselves very much. There was a concert given by the Blind, and also a band, and after tea, at which the Misses Heywood and other friends acted as helpers, Miss I. M. Heywood, Hon. Secretary of the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society, spoke a few encouraging words.

17. On Saturday, July 16th, there was a very successful reunion of old pupils of the School for the Blind, 10, Upper Avenue Road, London, N.W., when there was a muster of 56, some dating back their admission to 60 years ago. A most enjoyable afternoon was passed and it is hoped that the reunion, which was organised by the After-Care Committee who are taking an active interest in the welfare of past pupils, will be made an annual one.

18. Mr. Charles F. F. Campbell, superintendent of the Industrial Department of the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, left Massachusetts, June 1, to become the director of the work which the Pittsburgh Association for the Blind is to carry on in Western Pennsylvania.

Except for the excellent school for the Blind in Pittsburg and some "home teaching," little is being done for the Blind in western Pennsylvania, and the field is a large one.

The following resolution was adopted by the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind :—

"That, appreciating the limitations of the Commission's resources and the larger field offered in Western Pennsylvania, Mr. Campbell's resignation be accepted with extreme regret and in high appreciation of the invaluable service given by both Mr. and Mrs. Campbell to the work of the Commission.

We recognize that in the initiation of this work for the blind in Massachusetts, in the stimulating of public interest and in the bringing about of co-operation among the various forces concerned, their enthusiasm and self-forgetting energy have been of the greatest value."

19. The editor of the *Weekly Summary for the Blind* (a newspaper in Braille type), Shere, Surrey, has issued some very suitable and pretty Christmas Cards with raised designs and Braille words. Birds & Nests, with words "A Happy Christmas," and a suitable verse, price 6d., postage 1d.; St. Georges Banner, price 3d., postage 1d.; an Aeroplane, price 1d., postage $\frac{1}{2}$ d., with good wishes; and cards with fancy borders with words in uncontracted Braille for beginners, price 2d., postage 1d. The Kipling Calendar for 1911 is well got up, and consists of seven sheets tied with ribbon. It contains quotations from Kipling's Poems for each month, and the design of Lighthouse and Ships. The price is only 1/1 post free. The season's novelty is Flower Lotto for the Blind, which is an entertaining game, complete with rules in box, Braille post free 1/3, Braille and ordinary print 2/6 post free. The Christmas number of the *Weekly Summary for the Blind* will be published on December 14th, price 6d., post free to non-subscribers, and free to subscribers of not less than three months.

20. The report of the branch for the Blind of the Sunbeam Mission for the years 1909—10 has been issued, and is a record of progressive work carried on in an unobtrusive but singularly successful manner. When we read that upwards of 600 blind children have been put in touch with Braille-writing correspondents since the inception of this branch of the Mission in 1902, we may gauge, though faintly, the intense delight awakened in many poor and lowly children by the knowledge that they have friends who are interested in them beyond their family circle—friends who really care for them, and whose friendship often lasts beyond their school days. It is pleasing to note how interested in the work many of the children's teachers are and how highly they commend it. Those teachers who have not yet been connected with the Mission cannot realize what a great pleasure to themselves, and what a valuable help to their pupils they are losing by not being in touch with this excellent Society for befriending blind children and for influencing them for good. There is no doubt that the success of this branch is mainly due

to the able, untiring and unselfish efforts sympathetically made by the Hon. Sec., Miss Beatrice Taylor, 39, Sylvan Road, Upper Norwood, London, S.E., to whom all correspondence should be addressed.

21. The Hayesleigh Home and Workshops for Blind Men and Women, Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Old Trafford, Manchester, was opened on October 18th by the Mayor of Salford. The Chair was taken by Alderman Royle, Chairman of the Board of Management. The house stands in beautifully wooded grounds of three acres in extent, laid out in lawns, terraces, and walks. The estate was presented to the Asylum by Mr. C. H. Scott. The house has been used for the past two years for a secondary school for blind boys, but the Board have decided to concentrate all the educational work at the main Institution, and to transfer the older inmates to Hayesleigh, which has been reconstructed, and has spacious workshop accommodation in the rear of the building, where the able-bodied are employed in basketmaking, matmaking, and brushmaking.

22. At a quarterly meeting of the Governors of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, held on May 4th, Mr. Alderman Royle, the Chairman, reported that the Board of Management had abandoned the scheme for building a new school for children under 16 years of age, and were giving special attention to the employment of the Blind by extensive alterations in the workshops at Deansgate. He hoped also that a large showroom would soon be opened there. Mr. Royle finished his remarks by the following satisfactory announcement, as reported in the *Manchester Guardian* :—

“There was happily abundant evidence that the number of juvenile blind in this country was decreasing. Two or three years ago, when the new building scheme was brought forward, the school accommodation in the Asylum was crowded, and the Board had to refuse many applicants under 16 years of age, so that there was every appearance that the “places” provided by the proposed school for 150 children would soon be filled. Now,

however, they had no fewer than 54 vacancies for pupils, mostly boys, under 16 and few or no applications for them.

23. The 2nd annual meeting of representatives of the various Unions of Societies for the Blind throughout England and Wales, will be held in London, on October 22nd, at the Office of Gardner's Trust. There are many important matters for discussion, and it is expected that the meeting will last the whole day.

24. A meeting of the Committee to organise the Conference on the Blind, to take place at Exeter next year, will be held on Saturday, November 5th. Meanwhile the local arrangements are receiving the attention of the Hon. Secretary, Councillor Collingwood. Preliminary circulars, an epitome of which was given in our last number, page 355, have been issued to Institutions at home and abroad, and to persons interested in the Blind.

25. The report for 1909, of the British and Foreign Blind Association, is a record of a large amount of most necessary work achieved for the Blind, especially in the publishing department. Reference is made to the erection of a new building on an adjoining site, which has been secured on very advantageous terms. It is estimated that the building and equipment of the premises will cost about £30,000, of which sum about £10,750 has been raised. We quote the following interesting particulars from the report:—

“During the year a new process of embossing has been invented by the Association, and at the time of writing this Report a new press is producing excellent results at a speed *twelve times* greater than before. The preparation of the plates from which the books are embossed is also receiving special attention, and the Council have every reason to believe that their next Report will record the installation of new stereotyping machines, which will be capable of producing more and better work than has been possible in the past.

Many of the books and magazines are now being illustrated with suitable diagrams, which have added greatly to their value. Until last year, the cost of the plates from which these "pictures" were produced was well-nigh prohibitive, but now better, simpler, more expeditious, and far less costly means have been devised by the Association, so that in future your Council will be able more frequently to use this admirable means of educating and entertaining the Blind.

A special Feature has been the publication of several more books of the Scientific Series. In each case the works have been adapted for the use of the Blind by Mr. H. M. Taylor, M.A., F.R.S., who also transcribed them into Braille, and drafted the diagrams.

The cost and preparation of the plates is the most serious item in connection with the publication of books, and although this is being reduced it must ever remain high. At present this cost is mostly borne by the Association, and is not possible of recoupment by them no matter how many copies of any particular work are sold. The cost of plates varies from say £10 to £50, or an average of say £30 for a book of three thick foolscap volumes.

Of the Magazines, Newspapers and Periodicals over 106,000 were issued during 1909. The circulation of *Progress* increased by 50 per cent.

The total number of two-page book plates prepared during the year was 5,750. Great improvements have taken place in the Letterpress Department, which is a necessary adjunct to the Embossing Department. The Association now prints its own Reports, Catalogues, Circulars, Braille Instruction Books, etc. Five additional blind persons have been engaged, viz.:—1 stereotyper, 3 sewers (Bookbinding Department) and 1 typist and stenographer (Office)."

26. The report for 1909, of the Incorporated National Lending Library for the Blind, 125, Queen's Road, Bayswater, London, W., shows steady progress; 1,300 new books have been added, mainly through the efforts of voluntary writers, and 100 new

voluntary workers have learnt Braille and are now writing for the Library. The musical section has been increased by 304 new works of a varied kind. An Assistant Librarian has been appointed, owing to the increased circulation of books, which exceeded that of the previous year by 3,000 volumes. Sixteen paid blind writers and correctors have been constantly employed. Many readers, who are unable to pay the carriage of the books, are assisted from the Arnold Carriage Fund. The Dow Blind Writers' Fund gives employment to blind persons, and increases the number of volumes.

An interesting and well attended meeting, in aid of the funds of the Library, was held on July 7th, by kind permission of the Countess of Meath, at 83, Lancaster Gate, London, W., when Lord Courtney of Penwith presided, and referring to his own blindness, pleaded strongly on behalf of the Library.

Mr. E. C. Hamley, Chairman of the Library Committee, gave full particulars about it and appealed for funds. The Lady St. Helier spoke most sympathetically, and strongly advocated the work that was being done under successful management. Mr. Walter Dixon then gave a demonstration of reading by touch, and after him Mr. Henry J. Wilson spoke of the good work carried on by the Library, and strongly recommended a system of centralization of Libraries for the Blind, and the compilation of an universal catalogue, so that any blind person may know what books there are available in Braille and Moon, and where they can be obtained.

27. The following books have been added to the Free Public Library, Oxford: Aristotle's "Poetics"; Chaucer's "Legend of fair women"; Demosthenes' "Philippics," Books 1—3; Edersheim (A.), "Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah"; "The General Epistles in Greek"; "Epistles of St. Ignatius"; Euripides' "Hippolytus"; Johnson's "Europe in the 16th Century"; Sophocles's "Antigone."

It is a rule of the library that printed books shall not be lent out of Oxford.

28. The following Braille Publications are now ready at

Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Old Trafford, Manchester: "Willow or 'Osier' Growing," by W. Hy. Illingworth, F.C.T.B., suitable as a text book for Blind Technical Classes, price 4d.; "Notes on Musical Form," by Dr. W. Carroll, price 1/6; "Scoring for an Orchestra," by Dr. C. Vincent, price 2/6; "The Military Band" (No. 8 of "Musical Booklets," published by Weekes & Co.), price 1/-; "Save, Lord, and hear us," by I. Davidson, Mus. Bac. (an exercise written for the degree of Mus. Bac., Dunelm), price 1/6.

29. We hear that the Barclay Workshop for Blind Women, 246, Edgware Road, W., has a large stock of hand-woven ladies' dress material, suitable for winter wear, which they are very anxious to dispose of, as their working capital is very limited.

30. There is a difference of opinion between the Board of Education and the London County Council as to whether cooking is a suitable occupation for the Blind. The former contends that instruction in cookery may be attended with serious risks, and, therefore, have refused to recognise the Cookery Classes for the Blind, established last year by the London County Council Education Committee in connection with the Stanhope Street School, St. Pancras. The Council, however, intend to continue the classes, as they understand that the instruction given has been very valuable.

31. The following satisfactory Report on the Hastings and St. Leonards Special School for the Blind, has been received from the Board of Education:—

"The School has now been in existence for three years, and has completely justified its special function as an institution for the training of blind children who are also mentally feeble. The children are divided into two sections—a junior, taught almost entirely by attractive and resourceful kindergarten methods, and a senior, who receive such instruction in ordinary elementary subjects as their limited powers will allow, together with manual training of a high type.

“The children are exceedingly well cared for domestically, and show remarkable physical improvement as the result of their sojourn at the school.”

32. Dr. Fletcher Little who has so earnestly and persistently advocated the cause of the Blind in regard to special treatment when travelling on the London County Council Trams, must have been much gratified on receiving the following letter, dated August 5th, from Mr. G. L. Gomme, clerk to the Council :

“With reference to the attendance before the Highways Committee, on 16th June, 1910, of a deputation of blind workers, I write to state that the Council on 26th July, 1910, passed the undermentioned resolution :

That necessitous blind persons, properly authenticated and accompanied by a guide, be carried free on the Council's tram-cars, and that the guide be charged the usual fare.

In order to give effect to this decision the authorities of institutions at which such blind persons live or are employed should apply for free passes to the Council's Chief Officer of Tramways, 62, Finsbury Pavement, E.C. Particulars must at the same time be supplied of the address, and evidence of necessity of the person for whom the pass is desired, and also of the routes over which such person is likely to travel. The person to whom the pass is issued will only be allowed to travel free of charge over the routes specified on the pass, and only when accompanied by a guide.

It will also be necessary that a photograph of such person shall be furnished for insertion in the pass. I may add that the pass will be issued upon the understanding, and the use of it shall be taken as conclusive evidence of an agreement with the Council to the effect, that the Council is relieved from all liability in respect of any delay or injury to the person or property of the person using it.”

33. It has been decided to build an East Anglian Institution to accommodate 150 blind and deaf children, on a site at Gorleston, which has been given free of charge by the Yarmouth

Education Committee. The seven combining Education authorities are those of Norwich, Norfolk, Lowestoft, Yarmouth, East Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Ely. The Rhondda and Swansea Education Committees have also suggested that there should be a Joint School Authority in that district for a similar purpose.

34. The After-Care Committee for Blind, Deaf, and Cripple Children, 91, Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, London, S.W., have started the Blind Knitters' Industry. Gents' socks, ladies' knitted stockings, children's socks and stockings, shooting stockings, etc., are knitted by the Blind. Patterns and prices can be obtained on application to Miss F. G. Davenport, Hon. Asst. Secretary.

35. The following letter from Mr. Henry Stainsby, Secretary-General of the British and Foreign Blind Association, appeared in *The Times* of July 21st. It shows very clearly the difference in the expense of printing in ordinary type and in Braille type:—

“You are to be warmly congratulated upon to-day's issue of *The Times*, with its most useful and interesting Supplement.

It will interest your readers to know that, if it were published in Braille type, so that the Blind could read it by touch, and sold at half the cost of production, it would cost 18/- per copy; and yet your price in letterpress is only a modest 3d.”

36. The programme of the Fifth International Congress for the amelioration of the condition of the Blind, which will be held next year at Cairo, is as follows:—

Feb. 19th—10 p.m.—Reception of members by the Organising Committee.

Feb. 20th—11 a.m.—Opening of the Congress by His Highness the Khedive, in the Khedivial Opera House. Nomination of the definitive Committee.

3 p.m.—*Second Meeting*.—To be held at the Egyptian University. Discussion of questions proposed by the Organising

Committee. Opening of the Exhibition attached to the Congress.

Feb. 21st—9 a.m.—*Third Meeting*.—Resumed discussion of questions proposed by the Organising Committee.

2.30 p.m.—Visit to the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities.

Feb. 22nd—9 a.m.—*Fourth Meeting*.—Discussion of papers not included on the programme.

2.30 p.m.—Visit to mosques.

Feb. 23rd—9 a.m.—Excursion by boat to the Delta Barage. Lunch will be provided from the funds of the Congress.

Feb. 24th—9 a.m.—*Fifth Meeting*. Continuation of the discussion on papers submitted.

2 p.m.—Visit to the Arabic Museum and the Mosque of El-Azhar.

Feb. 25th—11 a.m.—Closing of the Congress at the Khedivial Opera House.

2 p.m.—Excursion to the Pyramids of Giza.

8 p.m.—Closing Banquet at the Continental Hotel.

The Questions submitted by the Organising Committee are:—

- (1) What definition should be given of "blindness," and what is the degree of vision below which an individual should be considered as blind?
- (2) What are the best measures to adopt to avoid the spread of the forms of Ophthalmia which may lead to blindness?
- (3) Has the use of Esperanto as a universal language for the blind actually been put into practice, and if so what practical results have been obtained?
- (4) As stenography is useful to the blind, what is the best method, applicable to all languages, of teaching it to the blind?
- (5) What are the best trades and professions to teach to the blind as a means of gaining their livelihood?
- (6) What are the best games and bodily exercises to be introduced into schools for the blind?
- (7) Can improvements be made in the Braille Method as at present practised?
- (8) Could not the blind be employed in telegraph offices and telephone exchanges?

The subscription is fixed at 20 francs. Members presenting papers and reports are requested to forward a summary of them to the Secretary General, so as to reach him not later than December 1st. The Congress will be conducted in Arabic, French, English and German.

37. Miss Askwith, who was the Principal of the Sarah Tucker College at Palamcottah, India, has resigned that post in order that she may devote herself entirely to work amongst the blind children of South India. She has been led to take this step by the fact that there are so many thus afflicted in that country, and little as yet is being done for them. Two schools are being built, one for boys and the other for girls. Miss Askwith's salary is paid for by the Church Missionary Society, but the necessary expenditure of the schools has to be met by voluntary gifts. A sum of £3 will support one child for a year.

38. The Annual Prize Festival of the Royal Normal College for the Blind was held at the College on July 19th, when Lord Lamington presided, and Miss Alice Armitage, daughter of the well-known Dr. Armitage, presented the prizes to the fortunate students who gained them. There was a large number of visitors, who had an opportunity of witnessing the excellent work carried on at the College, as there were classes held in various subjects; and a musical treat, especially the pianoforte playing of Wilfrid Kershaw, was much enjoyed. After the concert, Lord Lamington referred to the position of the College educationally and financially, and the Rev. R. S. de Courcy Laffan gave a most enlightening address of absorbing interest. The prizes were then sympathetically presented by Miss Armitage, and a cordial vote of thanks was given her on the motion of Mr. Henry J. Wilson, who spoke appreciatively of the benefits conferred on the Blind by her late father, whom he described as one of the noblest of noble men, and stated that his name was "writ large" in the history of the education of the Blind. He added also, that Miss Armitage was quietly following in her father's footsteps by her personal service on behalf of the Blind, and by her substantial gifts for their benefit.

INSTITUTIONS.

Bath. The 1st Annual report of the Bath Home Teaching Society is very satisfactory, and Miss Beavan, the Secretary, is to be congratulated on starting the Society so successfully. The Society was inaugurated on March 4th, 1909, though preliminaries had been arranged at a private meeting on January 21st. There is a Home Teacher who has to attend to 60 blind persons. There are 281 books in the library, which is at 4, Lower Church Street.

Birmingham. The 63rd annual report, for the year ended March 31st, 1910, of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, states that 811 blind persons have received direct benefit from the Institution during the year, including 186 resident pupils, and 109 day workers. Fifteen pupils entered for the examination of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, and 14 passed, 3 of them taking honours. A sum of £31 was granted to start pupils in life after their training had been completed. The 2 Home teachers visited 400 blind persons. A sum of £1,493 was given in augmentation to wages, and the total amount paid to blind employees was £5,842. The sales reached the sum of £12,378, exceeding any previous record. The number of blind workers employed was 123, viz.: 90 males and 33 females.

Cardiff. The 45th annual report for 1909 of the Cardiff Institute for the Blind was read at the annual meeting held on February 16th. It states that at the end of last year there were 54 women, journeymen, and apprentices at work, room having been provided for an additional number by the new workshop opened on December 15th. The sales amounted to £3,353 and £1,002, were paid in wages to the Blind. A sum of £60 was also given from the Good Conduct Fund. Seven annuitants received £5 each from the Shand Memorial Fund

Hull. The 46th annual report for 1909 of the Hull Blind Institution, was presented at the annual meeting held on April 27th, and it was announced as the most satisfactory report in the annals and history of the Institution. The sales amounted

to £1,798 and £980 were paid in wages. There are 44 blind workpeople and 2 partially blind. Chairs have been resealed to the number of 1,823, and 2,022 cork fenders have been made and sold. The two blind masseuses have had constant employment. A sum of £80 was distributed from the Sick Benefit and Entertainment branch. There are 205 blind members of the Institutions, and the occupations of each of them are given. There are 9 inmates in the Rockliffe Home for Blind Women.

Liverpool. The annual report for 1909, of the Liverpool Workshops and Home-Teaching Society for the Blind, Cornwallis Street, Liverpool, was presented at the annual meeting held on April 7th, when the Lord Mayor of Liverpool presided. The number of employees was 140, viz.: 25 basketmakers, 45 brushmakers, 45 matmakers, 18 upholsterers, 4 collectors, 1 in the office and 2 in the stores, and the amount paid them in wages was £4,515. The sales amounted to £19,561, and the Benevolent Fund distributed £45. The Annuity Fund paid out £170 to 11 blind persons. The self-supporting Sick Club provided £78 in relief. The latest and most sanitary appliances have been installed in the new building for the making of new bedding and the cleaning of old. Reference is made to the amalgamation of the Birkenhead Society for the Blind. A good dinner is provided for the blind workers at a nominal price. There are 266 on the register of the Home Teaching Society.

London. The 28th annual report for the year 1909, of the West London Workshops for the Blind, 60, High Street, Notting Hill Gate, W., shows that 40 blind persons were employed, viz.: 5 basketmakers, 10 wood choppers, 18 chair-caners, 5 porters, and 2 collectors. During the year, 1,080 baskets have been made, 937 repaired, 2,981 chairs caned, and 431,000 bundles of wood chopped and tied. The sales amounted to £1,650, and £673 were paid in wages to blind people. Supplemental wages, amounting to £157, were paid.

(a). The 4th annual report for the year ended March 31st, 1910, of the Barclay Workshop for Blind Women, 246, Edgware

Road, W., states that there are 10 workers, all of whom have been trained at the Barclay Home at Brighton. The sales amounted to £226 and the wages (including bonus) to weavers to £152.

(b) The report for the year ended April 30th, 1910, of the Surrey Association for the General Welfare of the Blind, 90, Peckham Road, London, S.E., states that the sales amounted to £1,031, and that a sum of £590 was paid in wages to blind workmen, besides £86 spent in meals.

(c) The 72nd annual report, for 1909, of the London Society for teaching the Blind to read, Swiss Cottage, South Hampstead, London, N.W., alludes to the introduction of a new industry, viz.; machine-knitting, and the continuation of the Day Technical Classes, in basket work and chair-caning. The number of pupils during the year has been 73 (45 boys and 28 girls). An After-Care Committee has been formed to give the pupils on leaving a start in life. A sum of £991 was derived from the Industrial department from embossing and sale of baskets, woodwork, &c.

(d) The 47th annual report for the year ended March 31st, 1910, of the Royal Blind Pension Society of the United Kingdom, 237, Southwark Bridge Road, London, S.E., shows a steady and continued progress in the number of its pensioners and was presented at the annual meeting held on May 25th. A special feature is the foundation of the Brodie-Sewell pensions of the value of £20 a year, for the benefit of those blind persons who have seen better days. The amount paid by the Society to 1,317 pensioners, and in gifts to certain candidates, was £9,442. Not only has the income been well maintained, but the Committee have been able to put aside a considerable share of the legacies (£6,417), which were received during the year. A full account is given of the interesting speeches at the Festival Dinner, held on April 26th, when Lord Plymouth presided.

Manchester. The 70th annual report for the year 1909 of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Old Trafford, Manchester, was presented at the general meeting of Governors, held on February 23rd. There were 114 males and 84 females resident in the

Asylum on December 31st. Four pupils passed the matriculation examination in the Faculty of Music at Durham University. Brushmaking has been added as an industry. A blind collector has been appointed. There was a loss of £870 in the outdoor workshops. Twenty-eight candidates for admission were examined by Dr. Glascott, and it is a matter of congratulation that there was only one case of blindness attributable to ophthalmia of the newborn. A sum of £686 was paid in grants to ex-pupils and the outside Blind.

Norwich. The report for 1909, of the Asylum and School for the Indigent Blind, Magdalen Street, Norwich, shows the number on the books at the close of the year as 22 males and 19 females in the Technical School; 3 males and 11 females in the Asylum, and 9 non-resident journeymen, making 64 in all. The sales amounted to £667, and £199 were paid to the 9 blind journeymen.

Nottingham. The 66th annual report for the year ended March 31st, 1910, of the Midland Institution for the Blind, Chaucer Street, Nottingham, was presented at the annual meeting held on July 5th. On March 31st there were 60 pupils (34 males and 26 females) undergoing technical training, and 44 workpeople and adult learners, making 104 in all. Mattress and bedding making and repairing has recently been introduced. The sales amounted to £7,874, and the legacies to £1,914. A new boarding-house for girls, erected on the land belonging to the Institution, was occupied in January last. A sum of £127 was granted to start old pupils in a trade, and of £1335 in wages to blind workpeople. There are several very good illustrations in the report.

Oldham. The 26th annual report, for 1909, of the Workshops for the Blind, Oldham, was presented at the annual meeting held on January 26th. There are 26 blind and partially blind persons employed as journeymen or learners. The sales amounted to £4,258. There are 186 blind and partially blind persons in the district, who are visited by a blind Home Teacher.

Sheffield. The 31st annual report for 1909, of the Sheffield Institution for the Blind, was presented at the annual meeting held on March 18th. There is accommodation in the school for 70 children. There are vacancies for two girls. In the workshops there are 32 men, 10 women, and 13 learners. There are 9 pensioners receiving from 2/6 to 7/6 a week. A sum of £1,017 was paid to the blind workers, and a bonus of £150. The sales amounted to £3,579. The Overend Cottages are all occupied, and the Home Mission work carried on is as varied as the needs of the Blind.

Wakefield. The 9th annual report for 1909 of the Wakefield Societies for the Blind, was presented at a meeting held on February 23rd. The report refers to the resignation of Miss Edith Wright, as Hon. Secretary, and also to taking a stall in the market, which has proved successful in selling goods made in the workshop, where 9 blind persons are employed. The sales amounted to £247, and £24 were paid in supplement to blind workers' wages. There is a Home Teaching branch, and also a Sick and Benefit branch.

THE UNIONS OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

The Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union. A Meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the rooms of the Gardner's Trust, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., on 2nd July, at 11.30 a.m.

There were present Mr. H. J. Wilson, in the Chair, Miss Bainbrigge, Miss Taylor, Sir John Brickwood, Sir Francis Campbell, Mr. Stuart Johnson, Mr. Stainsby, and Mr. Guy Campbell.

The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from Miss Wheeler, and that he was arranging to hold a meeting at Eastbourne in October.

It was reported that 416 letters had been issued to the Press within the Metropolitan area, each letter being accompanied by

a copy of the last Annual Report. A copy of the "Times" was submitted in which the letter appeared in extenso.

The Hon Secretary submitted a letter from Miss Hall, dated the 21st June, reporting the resignation of Mrs. Haslam as representative for S. Bromley, and adding that Miss Layton of Claremont, Widmore Road, had kindly consented to take her place. He further stated that a letter had been sent to Mrs. Haslam thanking her for what she had done in the past, and also one to Miss Hall thanking her for having secured the services of Miss Layton.

It was reported that Mr. W. Carden had consented to be the Representative for Bexley and district.

Sir Francis Campbell stated that Lady Campbell and he had been to Grays and seen Slater, on whose case he gave a full report.

The Chairman reported that Mr. Cialis had spent a fortnight at Southampton and had discovered several new cases, and would submit a complete report in the course of a few days.

Regrets for inability to attend the meeting were reported on behalf of Mr. Evans, Mr. Lempriere and the Rev. St. Clare Hill.

A letter from Mr. Pine the Hon. Secretary of the National Committee for the Employment of the Blind, dated the 17th June, and containing the subject matter for a Deputation to present to the Government was read to the meeting. It was resolved that the Metropolitan Union at its meeting of the 2nd July, 1910, cordially endorses the proposals which the National Committee for the better employment of the Blind have decided to lay before H.M. Government for the purpose of preventing the Blind of this country, after being trained for active service at the public expense, from falling into enforced idleness.

A report was submitted showing that there appeared to be seventeen centres in Kent from which organisation for the Blind could be commenced. Details were given, and after discussion it was agreed that the matter of carrying out the scheme should be referred to a Committee consisting of Miss Bainbrigge, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Campbell.

The Chairman reported that he had interviewed Miss Bennett and that she would be willing to commence definitely the duties of Secretary in charge from 1st September next. On the motion of Sir Francis Campbell seconded by Mr. Stainsby, it was unanimously agreed that Miss Bennett be appointed Secretary in charge for four months from the 1st September next.

It was agreed that Mr. Frank Lattey, an old graduate of the Royal Normal College, be requested to obtain all the information he can about the Blind in Bournemouth and district, and get the necessary forms filled in so as to register their names and particulars.

Miss Taylor read an epitome of the work done for the Union by Miss Bennett since the last meeting.

It was agreed to insure the contents of the office against fire and burglary.

A suggestion was made and approved that the Secretaries of the Eye Hospitals be asked to allow a notice of the Union to be put up in the out-patients departments and also that the same request be made to the Secretaries of the General Hospitals that the notice may be put up on "eye" days.

It was agreed that in future the meetings of the Committee do take place at 10.30 a.m. instead of 11.30 a.m.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Stuart Johnson for presenting to the Union a letter-copying press, and to Mr. Guy Campbell for giving a copy of Sell's Directory.

The meeting then adjourned.

The North West Union. A good start has been made in forming a Branch of the Home Teaching Society for the Blind at Hyde, where a meeting will shortly take place to complete arrangements. Last July a circulating library was started between all the Societies belonging to the Union. The annual meeting is to be held this year on October 12th, at Macclesfield.

PREVENTABLE BLINDNESS.

An Address was delivered on July 18th, at Stoke-on-Trent, by Mr. E. V. Greatbatch, Chairman of the North Staffs Joint School Authority for Educating Blind and Deaf Children, and of the North Staffordshire Workshops for the Blind, on the operation of the Notification of Births and of the Compulsory Notification of Ophthalmia Neonatorum in the Potteries District in preventing Blindness from Infantile Ophthalmia.

The address, copies of which we are glad to hear have been forwarded to Mr. John Burns at the Local Government Board, gives such valuable statistics, and shows so clearly the advantage of compulsory notification, that no apology is necessary for printing it in extenso.

"It will be in the memory of the Authority that a little over twelve months ago we formed a joint committee of this Authority and the Workshops for the Blind, to consider what could be done with regard to preventing blindness arising from Ophthalmia Neonatorum—that is ophthalmia of the newly born. By the kindness of the Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent and the Town Council I have now got details of the result of our work. These details are most interesting and most valuable, and very fully bear out all that we put forward with regard to this matter when we took it in hand. You remember a deputation, consisting of three medical gentlemen and myself, went to London to see the Local Government Board. We saw the principal Medical Officer of the Local Government Board, and the matter was fully discussed from a legal and a sanitary point of view, and somewhat from the humanitarian aspect. The Senior Medical Officer of the Local Government Board, after the discussion had taken place, and the medical gentlemen had given their opinions, said that we had two strings to our bow. One was to make Ophthalmia Neonatorum a compulsory notifiable disease, and the other to get the local Authorities to adopt the Notification of Births Act. The Local Government Board will not sanction the adoption of the Notification of Births Act unless the Authority asking for it provides a local nurse. I should like

to quote our own Ophthalmic Surgeon, and our local expert, Dr. Herbert Folker, who authorises me to say that every child affected with Ophthalmia Neonatorum, if neglected, is liable to become totally blind; whereas, in his judgment, if the cases are properly attended to, no more than one per cent. would become blind. The statistics we have got for the nine months these Acts have been in operation locally, show that blindness resulted in only 2·7 per cent. of the cases reported, so that there is an enormous saving of sight when such cases are properly treated. The great advantage of the Compulsory Notification of Ophthalmia Neonatorum is that the matter becomes known, and dealt with. But unfortunately there has been some little delay in notifying some of these cases. Happily for us, from our point of view, Dr. Petgrave Johnson has been appointed Medical Officer for the newly federated area, and he is in entire sympathy with us, and knows his subject well. The newly Federated Authority have adopted both these Acts, so that this area will be as fully protected in this matter as any area in England. Though we have no return from Tunstall, we have returns from five Pottery towns and Leek. The returns from the five Pottery towns for the period of nine months show that 75 cases were reported in that nine months. If you carry these figures forward, and add the probability of Tunstall, it will mean there are about 100 cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum in the Potteries each year. If we consider that every one of those children is in danger of total blindness, it shows the precipice on which we stand. During this period of nine months, out of 75 cases, the sight was perfectly saved in 61, so that with care and attention it is possible to preserve the sight of the children, and make them useful citizens. Out of these 75 cases, two children became totally blind, and nothing could be done; but there were seven cases in which one eye was saved. The other eye was lost, which proves absolutely the virulence of the disease. The saving of the sight of one eye in these seven children is a magnificent result, because a child with one eye can be educated in a normal school at a yearly cost to the community of between £2 and £3, as against £35 for the child who has been allowed

to become blind. Not only that, but they have the further advantage of being able to take up normal occupations when their education is finished. A child with one eye can travel the world over as against the very limited area through which a blind child can move.

I am happy also to say that all this good work has been brought about at a special expenditure of less than £30. We have had 61 children absolutely saved from blindness, and we have had seven partially saved at a cost altogether to the whole of the Potteries of less than £30. Of course there is the public nurse, who would be there whether we required her services or not, and these nurses seem to be of the greatest possible value. Take the case of Leek with its 16,000 inhabitants. There they had six cases notified in 12 months, and the eyesight in all the six cases was fully preserved. That very largely was due to the attention which the nurse was able to give to them. She went to see every case once or twice a day as the case might be. And there they stand, with no blindness, and no drawback at all arising from this cause in the little borough of Leek in six months. Some Medical Officers say the midwives are only beginning to realise the importance of early notification. We have drawn the attention of every one concerned to this matter. The medical men themselves are more on the *qui vive* for this disease than they formerly were. The midwives are giving special attention to it. And this is essential. I know of three cases where total blindness resulted, two either through neglect or lack of knowledge on the part of the midwives, and that is a very terrible thing. Another case came under my notice where a woman was about to become a mother—a woman who had to work for her living. Her friends advised her to go into the workhouse, but she would not, and the child was born in probably not a very healthy place, with the result that within five days of its birth the child was quite blind in both eyes. The great point seems to me to be to educate the midwives to the importance of this matter. Dr. Petgrave Johnson is quite aware of it, and he knows they will have to be dealt with where they are not quite up-to-date in this matter. At present, of course,

the local machinery being new, is not working very smoothly, and in some cases the notification was made rather late. The notification has varied from three days to three weeks after the contraction of the disease, a delay which places the child under very great disadvantages.

The results of our work have been magnificent. Out of 75 cases we have only two cases of total blindness, and I feel that what we have done in this district might very well and with very great advantage be made known the country over. The Local Government Board, although they knew something of our statistics of blindness, when we went up, did not know that they were so bad as we were able to convince them they were.

There is another aspect of the case, looking at it from the standpoint of a public man. Blind children, as a rule, can only be educated in residential establishments. Especially is this the case in the Potteries, because there are not sufficient blind children in any one town to justify the opening of day classes; so that so far as North Staffordshire is concerned it is compulsory for them to be educated in a residential school. Now there is only one residential school in Staffordshire; that is ours at "The Mount." There our accommodation is quite full; and if we have any more cases presented to us from the county we shall have to turn some children out from outside areas. But the accommodation thus made available will be sufficient for only a short period. If the onset of blindness is permitted to go on in the same ratio in the future as it has gone on in the past, the county of Staffordshire will very soon have to provide additional accommodation. If we can arrest the onset of blindness, as we are doing, it is probable that The Mount School will suffice for all requirements for some considerable time. Supposing additional accommodation has to be made, it means a capital expenditure of £150 per bed, at least; so that looking at it how we will, either as being interested in the education of the blind, or preventing blindness, from the humanitarian point of view, or from the question of expenditure, it is most desirable this matter should be followed closely up, and my appeal to-day is rather in the hope that something may be done in the middle

and south of the county in the same way as we have been doing in the north. There is practically no provision made generally to deal with Ophthalmia Neonatorum, and when we are able to show the comparatively small cost, surely something ought to be done.

From every point of view our action has been justified by the results and Dr. Folker's estimate has been very largely borne out, because where the children have been attended to there is only a result of 2·7 per cent. of blindness in the cases reported. I am very proud of the action the Joint Committee took, and still more proud of the results. These results far exceed anything I ever anticipated when this matter was put on foot; and we may rest assured that, in the newly federated borough, the disease will be watched in all possible ways. It is well-known all through the Kingdom that blindness from infantile ophthalmia is of frequent occurrence, but no statistics showing the possibility of prevention, such as we have to-day, have yet been prepared. Taking Leek as a basis there seems to be about one case of this disease annually to every 3,000 inhabitants, there or there about. Of course it might be an exceptional period—that I cannot tell, but this time next year I am in hopes we shall be able to get from the local authority very full particulars which will show the value of what has been done and the necessity of having it done elsewhere. I think the Joint Committee are to be highly congratulated on the result of their labours."

At the 78th annual meeting of the British Medical Association, held in London, July 22nd—29th, there was an excellent and interesting discussion on administrative control of ophthalmia neonatorum, the opening paper being read by Dr. George Reid, County Medical Officer of Health, Staffordshire, who referred to the scheme adopted in the Potteries, and said that the success achieved had been most gratifying.

We are glad to see that this subject is now receiving much attention, but we do wish the Local Medical Officers of Health would press for the compulsory notification of this terrible disease in their respective districts.

In the United States of America much is being done to

prevent the disease, and a booklet, entitled "A brief account of Organized Work for Prevention of Blindness in Four States: New York, Maryland, Ohio, and Massachusetts," which has been kindly sent us, shows that active measures are being taken there. The booklet was prepared for the Committee of the Russell Sage Foundation on Prevention of Blindness, who called a Conference on the question, and the information given is furnished by the Delegates to the Conference and shows the successive steps taken in their respective States.

COLLEGE OF TEACHERS OF THE BLIND.

A Meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the offices of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., Saturday, 23rd July, at 11 a.m., when there were present:—Sir Francis Campbell, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. W. H. Illingworth, W. Littlewood, Alexander Pearson, Henry J. Wilson, (Chairman), and Henry Stainsby, (Hon. Registrar).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from:— Mrs. Wilton Phipps, Miss Garaway, Hon. A. M. Kinnaird, Messrs. S. Maddocks, A. B. Norwood, H. W. P. Pine, W. M. Stone, Rev. A. Taylor, and Mr. H. M. Taylor.

The minutes of the last meeting (21st May, 1910), were read, confirmed and signed.

The report of the Board of Examiners was read, approved, and ordered to be entered on the minutes.

It was moved by the Chairman, seconded by Sir Francis Campbell and unanimously resolved "That a cordial vote of thanks be given to the Examiners for conducting the Examination and for presenting their report so expeditiously."

It was resolved to include in all future Syllabuses and circulars notice to the effect that:—

- (a) Candidates having entered for any subject must not withdraw themselves.
- (b) Candidates should not attempt more subjects than those in which they may reasonably hope to be successful.

The Chairman and Registrar were requested to prepare a suitable epitome of the Examiners' Report; to publish it in the press and to issue it to Schools for the Blind in the United Kingdom.

The Hon. Registrar stated that the Report of the Sub-Committee on Model Lessons, accompanied by a letter, asking that facilities might be granted to Teachers to avail themselves of the suggestions made, had been sent out to the Authorities of forty Schools in the United Kingdom, and that a number of replies had been received.

It was resolved to make an optional subject of the instruction of the Deaf-Blind, and Messrs. Illingworth and Jones were appointed to consider the matter and report to this Committee.

It was resolved to hold the next Examination in London on 30th and 31st May and 1st June, 1911 and, if possible, at Linden Lodge.

An Examination was held at Wavertree School for the Blind, Liverpool, by kind permission of the Committee, on July 12th, 13th and 14th, 1910.

There were 37 Candidates, of whom 10 had presented themselves at one or both of the two previous examinations. Of the 37 Candidates 17 were awarded Certificates. No certificate is awarded until a Candidate has satisfied the Examiners in all compulsory subjects and one optional subject. The compulsory subjects are :—(1). Theoretical Knowledge of Revised Braille, Grades I. and II. (2). Practical Knowledge of Braille, Grades I. and II. (3). Practical Knowledge of Arithmetic for the Blind. (4). Practical Teaching of the Foregoing three subjects. And the Optional subjects are :—(1). Manual Work :—Elementary Basket-Making, Bead Work and Clay-Modelling, Elementary Centre Cane Work, Elementary Brush Making, Chair Caning, Hand Knitting, Hand-Sewing, Kindergarten Occupations, Machine Knitting, Machine Sewing, Elementary Mat-Making, Wood-Work. (2). Braille Music. (3). Braille Shorthand. (4). Typewriting. (5). Physical Training and Recreation for the Blind. (6). History of the Education of the Blind.

The following are the successful candidates :—

Adams, Annie L., Honours in Practical Teaching and Braille Music.
 Brady, Emma, Honours in Theoretical Braille and Arithmetic.
 Emblen, John R., Honours in Theoretical Braille and Arithmetic.

- Evans, Edward, Honours in Theoretical Braille, Arithmetic, Physical Training and Recreation for the Blind and the History of the Education of the Blind.
- Finlay, Annie, Honours in Theoretical Braille, Arithmetic and Practical Teaching.
- Hawkins, Lilian A.
- Lester, Mary V. Honours in Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Arithmetic and Physical Training and Recreation for the Blind.
- Littleton, Elsie, Honours in Practical Braille and Arithmetic.
- Livesey, Jessie L., Honours in Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille and Practical Teaching.
- Lockett, Jane E.
- Matta, Mabel H., Honours in Practical Teaching.
- Paul, John, Honours in Clay Modelling and Manual Work. (1908 Regulations).
- Pinnington, Alice E., Honours in Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille and Practical Teaching.
- Preedy, Nellie B., Honours in Theoretical Braille and Practical Braille, Practical Teaching and Kindergarten.
- Spencer, Charles H., Honours in Theoretical Braille and Practical Braille.
- Stevens, Samuel E., Honours in Practical Braille, Arithmetic and History of the Education of the Blind.
- Tucker, William, Honours in Arithmetic.

The Examiners report that, generally speaking, the standard of attainments in the Compulsory Subjects was higher than at the previous examinations. The same remark applies to the Manual Subjects. Typewriting—a subject to which the Examiners attach great importance—was deplorably bad. Of the eight candidates who sat, only two passed and neither with honours.

The Examiners call attention to the regrettable fact that several candidates entered for manual subjects but failed to take them. Much time, energy and material were thus wasted. The Committee are taking steps to prevent a recurrence of this in the future.



THE LATE
W. S. SETON-KARR.

CHAIRMAN OF GARDNER'S TRUST—JUNE 1887 TO NOVEMBER 1910.

The Blind.

VOL. III.

No. 53.

JANUARY 20TH, 1911.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before March 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. By the death of Mr. Walter Scott Seton-Karr, whose portrait is given as the frontispiece, a notable character in public life and in the building of our great Empire, has been lost to us, as well as a firm and unwearying friend of the Blind. Though he had all but reached the great age of 89, his faculties remained clear and unimpaired until almost the very end, and he devoted himself with keen interest and unflagging sympathy to whichever of the manifold duties he undertook claimed his attention at the moment. He was a godson of Sir Walter Scott, the Wizard of the North, was educated at Rugby, under the great Dr. Arnold, and prepared at Haileybury College for the Indian Civil Service, passing into it in 1842. The "Standard," of November 24th, 1910, says that Mr. Seton-Karr "was Under Secretary in the Indian Foreign Office during Lord Dalhousie's Governor-Generalship, and was Foreign Secretary during the last year of

Lord Lawrence's administration and for two years under Lord Mayo. All the correspondence between the Indian Government and Amir Shere Ali, at a time when its relations with Afghanistan were the subject of anxious consideration, passed through Mr. Seton-Karr's hands. He retired from the service in 1870. He had also at one time been a judge of the Calcutta High Court and Vice-Chancellor of the University. The Blue books on Afghanistan and Central Asia were his work, and he also wrote the Life of Lord Cornwallis in the "Rulers of India" series, as well as printing for private circulation only a few years ago an account of the Sepoy Mutiny in Belgaum and Jessore." He kindly presented copies of the two last-named works to the writer of this article. On taking up permanent residence in England, Mr. Seton-Karr took up also many self-imposed duties, by means of which he could be of service to his fellow creatures. He served for many years on the Council of Guy's Hospital, the Chelsea Board of Guardians, the Governing Body of Marlborough College, and for over 23 years as Chairman of Gardner's Trust for the Blind. It is of course in this latter capacity that we can speak from personal knowledge, and may we add, with affection and respect. He joined the Committee of the Trust in May 1882, and at once threw his whole mind into the subject of the amelioration of the condition of the Blind. Few people know better than the writer how much time and thought he gave to the consideration of many important and difficult problems that came before the Committee for discussion, or the clearheaded good sense and good feeling with which he helped in their solution. On June 13th, 1887, he was elected Chairman in the room of the late Lord Kinnaid, and he was re-elected Chairman at the first meeting in each subsequent year until his death. In 1902, he took an active part in the Conference on matters relating to the Blind organized by Gardner's Trust,

and read an exhaustive and clearly expressed paper on "Provision for the Aged Blind, by means of Pensions, Homes or otherwise." He also presided at one of the Meetings during the Conference. The writer of this paper will never forget his unvarying kindness and sympathetic assistance in the manifold and often exceedingly perplexing duties of the Secretary to the Trust, or the great ability that rendered such efficient help. It is gratifying to remember that for more than a quarter of a century the association was one of the most entire and friendly harmony.

Mr. Seton-Karr married the daughter of the Rev. the Hon. H. Cust, and leaves two sons.

The following is the copy of a minute passed by the Committee of Gardner's Trust at a meeting held on December 6th. "On the motion of Lord Kinnaird, seconded by Mr. Beaumont, it was resolved that the following statement be entered on the minutes of the proceedings:—At this, the first meeting of the Committee since the death of their revered Chairman, Mr. Walter Scott Seton-Karr, they desire to place on record their sincere appreciation of his valuable services as a member of the Committee of this Trust for over 28 years, and as Chairman for more than 23 years.

He was always genial and persuasive, and in a convincing manner brought a sound judgment and a varied experience to bear on matters under discussion. He took the greatest interest in the administration of the Trust Fund, and spent much time in mastering the details, always making himself fully conversant with all questions before they were discussed at the meetings.

The Committee feel that they have lost an excellent and unbiassed Chairman, who was versed in all branches of the work of the Trust."

H.J.W.

2. Just on going to press we heard with much regret of the death of Mrs. T. Clarke, who, with her late husband, was so well known for many years in the East of London, in connection with the Christian Blind Relief Society, now called the National Blind Relief Society, and with the large annual tea for the Blind. The Society was founded in 1843 to grant weekly and monthly pensions to the needy Blind. Mr. Clarke was Hon. Secretary, and both he and his wife were much beloved by the Blind, the latter having well earned by her kindness, the affectionate term of "mother."

3. It is with much regret that we have to announce the death, on November 28th, of Mrs. Hugh E. Walford, Pattingham, Reading. We sincerely sympathise with Mr. Walford in the severe loss he has sustained, and we feel sure that the Blind of Reading, for whom he has done so much, would wish to be associated with us in the same expression of sympathy. Mr. Walford's persistent and strenuous efforts on behalf of the Blind have resulted in all blind persons in Reading being looked after and well cared for. For nearly 18 years he has worked practically single-handed, and his success, not only in befriending the Blind, but also in raising an endowment fund of nearly £2,500, richly rewards him for his self-denying efforts.

4. In the January number of last year we drew attention to the excellent wire work done by Mr. A. J. Gormand, and now we regret to have to announce his death on November 30th, after a short illness. We knew Mr. Gormand from the time when he was in very straitened circumstances, and we watched with admiration the way in which he courageously overcame all difficulties, and succeeded so well in his wire-work, that he was able to employ two other blind men to assist him. He was very resourceful, and invented and made, or planned, several special contrivances for making his goods. His determination to succeed, and his devotion to his work, were strong factors in his succeeding in this new industry for the Blind. Mrs. Gormand, who intends to carry on the business at 28, Woronzow Road.

St. John's Wood, London, N.W., has received letters most appreciative of her husband's work, and with promises of a continuance of orders, from the P. & O. Company, the Orient Mail Line, and other Companies to which Mr. Gormand supplied a large assortment of wire articles, such as ladles, sieves, whisks, drainers, etc.

5. The Right Honourable the Lord Kinnaird has been elected Chairman of Gardner's Trust for the Blind.

6. The Syllabus for the 1911 Examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind is now ready, and copies may be obtained on application to Mr. Henry Stainsby, Hon. Registrar, c/o the British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W. The next Examination will be held at the School for the Blind, Linden Lodge, Bolingbroke Grove, Wandsworth Common, London, S.W., on 30th and 31st May, and 1st June, 1911.

7. Mr. William Murray, a pupil of the Royal Blind Asylum and School, West Craigmillar, Edinburgh, was successful last September in passing the Preliminary Examination of the Scottish Universities. The subjects which he took at the Examination were Higher English, Higher Latin, Higher Mathematics, and Dynamics. He has now entered Edinburgh University, and is taking the Arts course.

8. Victor Spanner, a Gardner Scholar at the Royal Normal College, took his degree in September, as Bachelor of Music at Durham University; and Florence Shiell, also a Gardner Scholar at the College, passed the Examination of the Board of Education for Teacher's Certificate, held in July, with distinction in Principles and Practice of Teaching, History, and Geography.

9. Dennis Haller, a former Gardner Scholar at the Royal Normal College, has passed his first examination for the Degree of Bachelor of Music at Durham.

10. Miss Mary A. Steele has passed the examination of the Board of Education for her Certificate as a Teacher in Schools for the Blind. Miss Steele is a Teacher in the Royal Blind Asylum and School, Edinburgh, and has been connected with the Institution since she was three years of age.

11. We congratulate Mr. James E. Smith on his appointment as a Pianoforte Tuner to the London County Council Schools, after a period of probation which has proved satisfactory. On an average he tunes about 22 pianos a week, besides carrying out small repairs.

12. Some of the boys at Linden Lodge L.C.C. School for the Blind, have entered for the Examination of the City and Guilds of London Institute for the past two or three years, and they have been very successful. This year, three of the boys have been awarded the Bronze Medal and Prizes in value of £1, £2, and £2 10s. Seven boys obtained first-class Certificates. The examination was the same as that for sighted people, but arrangements were made for the questions in Theory to be taken in Braille. Such a test as this encourages the boys to better work, and at an age—13 to 16—when it is necessary for them to realize that success in the industrial world after school life can only be achieved through honest labour.

13. A meeting of the General Committee appointed to organize the Conference on the Blind, to take place at Exeter in July next, was held at 2.15 p.m., on November 5th, at the Offices of Gardner's Trust, when there were present: Mr. H. J. Wilson in the Chair, Miss Austin, Sir F. J. Campbell, Mr. W. H. Dixon, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. Maddocks, Pine, Platt, Siddall, Stainsby, and Collingwood (Hon. General Secretary). Letters regretting their inability to attend the meeting were read from Rev. N. F. McNeile, Miss Wright, Messrs. Frew Bryden, Munby, and Stone. Many important matters were discussed and arranged, including the Chairmen for the respective meetings, and the papers to be read at them. A large and influential local

Committee has been formed, which shows that every effort will be made locally to make the Conference a success. Mr. Henry C. Preece, who is blind, was appointed to give a lecture on one of the evenings. The questions to be circulated by the compilers of their respective papers were presented and considered. The second Conference circular will be issued shortly, in which details as to the arrangements will be given. We trust that the Managers of all the Institutions for the Blind, and others, are making arrangements to attend the Conference.

14. A Conference of Teachers of the Blind—chiefly those in London—was held at Elm Court L.C.C. School for the Blind, October 22nd. It was well attended. The following papers were read and discussed:—

Touch as the factor in the Education of the Blind,
by Miss Luker.

The Teaching of Handwork, by Miss Bryan.

The Teaching of English, by Miss Rothwell.

Recreation and Games for the Blind, by Mr. Evans.

The Training of the Blind after the age of 16,
by Mr. Adams.

The success of the conference clearly proved the necessity for Teachers engaged in special work, to meet and discuss their experience of class-room work. Such a meeting, to a great extent, meets the recommendation of the examiners of the College of Teachers of the Blind in regard to Teachers availing themselves of opportunities to improve their teaching powers.

It is hoped to hold another Conference this year, and that Teachers from the provincial schools will endeavour to attend and take part, as the results must eventually benefit the work in schools for the Blind.

Through the courtesy of Miss Luker, who was a Gardner Scholar at the Royal Normal College, we print this month the paper read by her, and the other papers have been kindly promised to us for printing as opportunity occurs.

15. Much has been done during the last three months for the prevention of infantile blindness. On November 8th, the

London County Council decided that under Sections 55 and 56 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1891, the notification of infectious disease shall apply in the Administrative County of London to ophthalmia neonatorum. Mr. Greatbatch has been advocating compulsory notification in Wolverhampton, evidently being determined to persuade South Staffordshire to follow the lead of the North, and to make the county of Staffordshire "a beacon on the hill" in regard to this matter. An excellent article on preventable blindness appeared in the *British Medical Journal*, of November 19th. The question was brought forward by the Chairman of the Committee of the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, on December 5th, and a resolution was passed recommending compulsory notification, a copy of which was sent to the Medical Officer of Health for the City. The Newcastle Town Council have also had the matter brought to their notice, and Mr. Alfred Hirst, from his bed of sickness, has been writing to many of the leading newspapers. The Local Government Board announced a few months ago that 50 sanitary districts had then adopted notification, and presumably there are many more now in consequence of the many efforts to make known the virulence and terrible effects of this disease.

16. Sir John Brickwood gave an address on matters relating to the Blind to the members of the Dickens' Birthplace Fellowship, at the annual meeting held in the Banqueting Room at the Town Hall, Portsmouth, in October last. Sir John explained the objects of the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union of Societies for the Blind, of the Executive Committee of which he is an active member. He said that he had recently had a man working in the district, and he had found 232 blind people in Portsmouth.

17. Capt. Pierson Webber, Director of the National Service and County Poultry Club, has been giving courses of lectures, arranged by the County Education Committee of Warwickshire, on "Poultry for Profit." The lectures, which are accompanied by lantern coloured views, have been very popular and well attended. Captain Webber is blind.

18. In our last number we referred to a blind crier in Ely, and now we hear of two others, Robert Jones and Isaac Owen, both of whom share the duties of town crier in Towyn, Merionethshire.

19. The new edition (4th) of "Annuities to the Blind," brought out by Mr. Stuart Johnson, shows that much time, care, thought and money have been expended on the production of two interesting volumes, which have been welcomed, as a great boon, by those who are interested in the question of pensions for the Blind. The 1st volume gives full details of every known society which assists the Blind by way of pensions, and can be purchased for 3/6 net, from Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co., 39, Paternoster Row, London. The 2nd volume, or appendix, is printed for private circulation, and cannot be purchased. It is a most generous gift from Mr. Johnson to Societies for the Blind. It contains the lists of every pensioner, under the heading of each of the Societies, and then a general alphabetical list of all the pensioners. This information is most helpful, but we would venture to suggest that in order to save expense and much time, it might be advisable in future editions to print only the alphabetical list, and thus save a duplication of names. It is surprising to read in the preface, that in these enlightened days, there should still be those who hesitate to give the requisite information for a book of this kind. No less than 73 charities have been fully described—this number far exceeding that given in any previous list—viz.: 61 in England, 3 in Wales, 4 in Ireland, and 5 in Scotland. A hearty vote of thanks is due to Mr. Johnson for his Herculean labours, and it is a matter of congratulation that these are to be repeated this year and henceforth annually, in a revision of the list of pensioners. This seems most necessary, as there are so many inevitable changes, both of omission and addition, in the period of twelve months.

20. At the suggestion of many readers of the Braille system, the Council of the British and Foreign Blind Association have decided to issue monthly, at 1/- per copy, post free, a

Braille Literary Journal. This journal will consist of original articles, and articles from the best magazines, journals, reviews, newspapers, etc.

21. A branch of the "King's Messengers," which is the authorised Children's Association of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, has recently been started for blind members in the hope that they too may be led to take an interest in the great work of Foreign Missions. Its members are boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 21, and they receive the card of membership printed in Braille type. They are also sent a short form of Intercession and Thanksgiving every two months, with a letter in Braille. The Hon. Sec. is Miss M. Orred, 59, Lowndes Square, London, S.W., who, on application, will gladly give fuller information.

22. The embossed shorthand system for the Blind has just been revised by a Committee appointed by the Council of the British and Foreign Blind Association, with the object of bringing it into conformity with Revised Braille. The work has been admirably carried out by three well-known experts, Miss H. C. Russell, Mr. Herbert D. Black, and Mr. Maurice J. Myers. "Revised Shorthand" is now in course of publication and will be issued very soon.

23. Since our last issue, two new Societies for the Blind have been firmly established by the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union of Societies for the Blind. The Berks County Blind Society was formally started at a meeting held at the Lord Lieutenant's house, on October 10th, after much preparatory work, energetically carried on by Mrs. Goodhart, Willows, Inkpen, Berks, who is Hon. Secretary to an influential local committee. And on November 26th, the Eastbourne Society was formed at a meeting held there. A Committee has been appointed, consisting of well-known residents, and the Hon. Secretary is Miss Wheeler, 19, Hartfield Road, Eastbourne, who had spent much time in visiting the Blind in the town and neighbourhood previously. The speakers who represented the

Union at both meetings were Miss Beatrice Taylor, and Mr. H. J. Wilson. A deep debt of gratitude is due to Mrs. Goodhart and Miss Wheeler for their splendid enthusiasm on behalf of the Blind, and for the heavy work undertaken, and the time unsparingly given, in the organization of the meetings of the Societies.

24. Founders' Day was celebrated at the Bradford Institution for the Blind on November 9th, when Mr. Priestman presided and stated that there were 66 men and 37 women at work in the Institution, and 15 men and 9 women in the Homes, making a total of 127. The sales in 10 months had amounted to £10,525, and £2,423 had been paid in wages. The men at the Training Home had made 8,679 brushes, and 72,444 bundles of firewood, and the women had knitted over 500 articles. The Institution celebrates its jubilee this year, and an effort is made to raise £2,000. The annual address was given by Mr. H. C. Preece, who urged blind men and women to cultivate a spirit of humour.

25. Sir Francis Campbell has a large correspondence with quondam students of the Royal Normal College, and he has kindly allowed us to see two letters of exceptional interest from two students who were Gardner Scholars, and went to the College from the Midland Institution for the Blind. We can give only brief extracts.

Miss Ada Hodgson, a most successful blind typist, who has been employed by one firm since October 2nd, 1905, wrote:—

“About a month ago I received a visit from a gentleman who had been recommended by the Hammond Company, as he had a typewriter which he could not work. The gentleman did not know I could not see, but was perfectly satisfied to let me give him a course of lessons both in the working and mechanism of the machine. I go for two hours twice a week, and he is getting on all right. You should have seen how utterly astonished the man was when he discovered that I could not see.”

Mr. Harry Greenwood writes from Worcester, Cape Colony:—

“Our winter holidays were spent in Pretoria, giving recitals and concerts with the assistance of five of my blind pupils. . . . We arranged to give three recitals and five concerts. The pupils acquitted themselves well in every particular; perhaps the greatest praise should be given to the two organists for their rapid mastery of unfamiliar instruments. My wife gave me invaluable assistance, always stepping in wherever sight and a practical mind were needed. . . . The results of the recent examinations have beaten previous record, viz.;—

Harmony: 9 entries, no failures, 6 honours; this includes Lower, Intermediate and Advanced.

Piano; 8 entries, 2 failures, 3 honours; all divisions represented, but no honours in Intermediate.

Organ: 4 entries, no failures, 1 honour (Advanced).

In addition to these, who are blind, I have the honour of being the first teacher in Worcester to prepare a pupil successfully as ‘University Licentiate in Music’; the pupil is a young lady who entered as teacher of singing.”

26. The Committee of the National Lending Library for the Blind, 125, Queen’s Road, London, W., have decided to send one extra volume at holiday times to all their blind deaf readers in consideration of the fact that such readers are cut off from all the enjoyments of such seasons.

27. Miss Helen Keller has recently written a poem called “The Chant of the Stone Wall,” and it is simply marvellous to reflect that the authoress is blind, deaf and dumb, when the poem is so full of imagery. The wall is that built by the early settlers and the men of the Mayflower, and offers full scope for exceedingly beautiful reflections on the Northern States of America. Optimism is the keynote of the whole poem, which is published by Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton.

28. The name of the Surrey Association for the Blind, 90, Peckham Road, London, S.E., has been changed to the London Association for the Blind.

THE UNIONS OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

The second meeting of the Union of Unions of Agencies for the Blind was held at the Offices of the Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., on Saturday the 22nd of October, 1910, at 11 a.m. The following representatives were present:

Metropolitan Union.—Miss Bennett, Miss Beatrice Taylor, Mr. Campbell and Mr. Wilson.

Midland Union.—Miss Merivale, Mr. Burrows, Mr. Pine and Mr. Thurman.

North of England Union.—Miss Heywood, Miss Sadgrove, and Mr. Illingworth.

North-West Union.—Miss Comber, Miss Griffith and Archdeacon Barber.

Mr. Stuart Johnson, Hon. Treasurer, also attended.

The Minutes of the 23rd October, 1909, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed.

On the motion of Mr. Illingworth, seconded by Mr. Pine, Mr. H. J. Wilson was unanimously re-elected Chairman.

On the motion of Mr. Wilson, seconded by Miss Heywood, Mr. Stuart Johnson was unanimously re-elected Hon. Treasurer.

On the motion of Miss Heywood, seconded by Mr. Pine, Miss B. Taylor and Mr. Campbell were unanimously re-elected Hon. Secretaries.

The Chairman raised the question whether ladies or gentlemen not being bonâ-fide delegates from their respective Unions, should be permitted to attend meetings as visitors, but without the power of voting. After a short discussion it was agreed that the admission of visitors was inadvisable.

The Chairman having read a letter from Mr. Munby in which it was pointed out that the Union of Unions had at the present time no regular Constitution, it was agreed that a Constitution should be formulated at once and submitted to the different Unions for approval and confirmation.

Enquiry Forms. The Hon. Secretaries reported that they had received enquiry forms from the different Unions, and they now submitted a draft embodying all the questions which had appeared on the different forms. Copies of the draft were handed to the members present and after two slight amendments, the draft was approved. The Hon. Secretaries were requested to issue this amended form to each Union with the recommendation that it should be adopted.

Amount of Affiliation Fee. It was agreed that the affiliation fee for each Union to the Union of Unions shall be a minimum amount of half-a-guinea to be paid annually, the fee to become due on the 1st January of each year.

Aftercare. Miss Taylor kindly submitted her suggestions on "Aftercare," based on Miss Heywood's book. Further suggestions were made by the members, and in the paragraph dealing with Workshops, it was suggested that mention should be made of the loss of employment to the Blind caused by the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Upon the motion of Mr. Illingworth, seconded by Mr. Pine, it was agreed that Miss Taylor should be asked to incorporate these ideas with her suggestions and then submit further proofs to the Unions.

Forms. Miss Taylor submitted samples of "Aftercare" forms of different colours, the colours representing different crafts and trades. She also submitted a map of London, on which little flags of the same colours as the forms were pinned, to indicate the localities in which blind people practising any particular trade could be easily found. It was explained that these forms and the map were only used at present on behalf of blind girls and women between the ages of 16 and 35. Miss Taylor kindly promised to send samples of the papers to the Secretary of each Union.

Definition of Blindness. The Chairman reported that he had had another interview with the Registrar General, but regretted to say apparently without any successful result.

Regrets for inability to attend the Meeting were reported on behalf of Mr. Hall of the South Wales Union, Mr. Collingwood

of the Western Counties Union, and Mr. Munby of the North of England Union.

The Hon. Treasurer submitted his financial statement.

Miss Comber, on behalf of the North-West Union, recommended that the Unions should exchange their Annual Reports with each other. After discussion this was amended to read as follows:—"That the Unions do exchange their Annual Reports and other printed matter with each other, such printed matter to be issued through the Union of Unions officials, that is that the Union of Unions would act as a Clearing House."

Arising out of this it was moved by Miss Griffith, seconded by Mr. Thurman and agreed that an Annual Report of the Union of Unions should be issued with a brief account of the various Unions.

It was suggested that the Organizing Secretaries should meet to compare notes, and on the motion of Mr. Burrows, seconded by Mr. Pine, it was agreed that the Organizing Secretaries should meet together not less than once a year for the purpose of comparing notes, the meetings to be held alternately in London and in the Provinces. In cases where there was no Organizing Secretary belonging to a Union, the Hon. Secretary was to be invited to attend. The date and place of the first meeting was left to the Organizing Secretaries to arrange.

Miss Heywood's proposal that the motto recommended for adoption by all the Unions should be "Domine Dirige Nos" was agreed to.

A proposal from the North of England Union in regard to the question of children leaving school at 16 years of age was very carefully discussed, and on the motion of Archdeacon Barber a resolution was passed dealing with the subject.

It was agreed that the Authorities of the Institutions within any Union be requested to notify the Secretary of the Union to which any pupils leaving the Institutions are going.

(The Committee adjourned for lunch at 1 p.m. and re-assembled at 2.20 p.m.)

It was agreed to ask permission for printed notices to be put in Eye Hospitals giving particulars of the Union, in which the Hospital was situated, with the address of the Secretary, etc.

United action with the Girl's Friendly Society was approved. By this means the obtaining and issuing of commendation forms when blind girls went from one part of the country to another will be rendered much easier.

The Chairman submitted draft Bye-laws for regulating the Meetings of Councils and Executive Committees, and after a few amendments had been suggested, the Hon. Secretaries were requested to send a copy of the revised draft to each Union.

Leaflet No. 1 of the Metropolitan Union was presented and the Chairman reported that the Metropolitan Union is willing that the other Unions should make use of the leaflet for themselves by changing the title page or by adaptation.

It was decided that branches started by the Unions should be known as the "Blanktown Society for the Blind" (affiliated to the — Union for the Blind.)

Mr. Campbell submitted a letter and the accompanying resolution from Mr. Hall. "That this Union assembled in Annual Meeting at Swansea, 23rd September, 1910, cordially endorses the proposals which the National Committee for the better employment of the Blind have decided to lay before H.M. Government for the purpose of preventing the Blind of this country, after being trained for active service at the public expense, from falling into enforced idleness."

A letter from Miss Merivale enquiring about the necessity for notification of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was read. The Chairman directed her attention to an article in the last number of the "Blind," where it was explained why the notification should be made compulsory.

The question was asked as to what steps should be taken to compel blind children living at home to attend school. The Chairman pointed out that the first step should be to acquaint the School Attendance Officer of the district and if that were insufficient, then the matter should be brought to the notice of the Clerk of the Education Committee of the particular district in which the child resided, as the attendance of blind children up to the age of 16 is compulsory under the Act of 1893.

Miss Heywood reported that the town of Bradford had now

succeeded in having the blind people in their Workhouses boarded out, and she urged the Union of Unions to co-operate with the idea of seeing that similar action was taken throughout the entire country. It appeared that Bradford had boarded out every blind person, whether able bodied or otherwise, but it was the feeling of the Meeting that if any action were taken, it should for the present at any rate be confined to dealing with those who were able bodied and mentally fit.

The question was raised whether steps could be taken to see that in the area of each Union a suitable school was provided for feeble minded blind children. It was pointed out that there was one school, Mrs. Meiklejon's, 48, Kenilworth Road, St. Leonard's-on-Sea, which took such cases, and that unless it could be shown that there was a very large percentage of such children, it would be extremely difficult, however advisable, to have separate schools in each Union.

Several other subjects were discussed, and a most interesting and helpful meeting was brought to a close late in the afternoon.

The Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union. A Meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the rooms of the Gardner's Trust, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., on the 8th October, 1910, at 10.30 a.m. There were present Mr. Wilson, in the Chair, Miss Bainbrigge, Miss Taylor, Miss Moon, Sir John Brickwood, Sir Francis Campbell, Mr. Lempriere, Mr. Stainsby and Mr. Guy Campbell, Hon. Secretary.

The question of notices for the "Eye Hospitals" was deferred until after the meeting of the Union of Unions on the 22nd October.

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Mrs. Inglis, Rev. St. Clare Hill and Mr. Stuart Johnson.

It was reported that No. 1 leaflet had been issued to all the Vice-Presidents, members of the Executive Committee and the Hon. District Representatives.

It was reported that letters had been sent to leading people in Deal, Gravesend, Margate, Ashford, Cranbrook, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Faversham, but, as yet, replies had only been

received from Cranbrook, Tonbridge and Margate. Colonel Hill, of Margate, kindly gave the names of ladies and gentlemen he thought might be interested, and regretted that owing to going abroad himself he would be unable to be of any assistance for the next six months.

It was reported that the Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind had affiliated to the Union.

It was reported that Mrs. Kepple Taylor had very kindly presented the Union with a special card index cabinet, and the Chairman stated that he had written Mrs. Kepple Taylor thanking her for her generous gift.

During the month of August the Secretary-in-Charge being away for her holiday, Miss Taylor kindly visited the office at frequent intervals and dealt with the correspondence, as far as possible, to prevent undue accumulation and disappointment.

Sir John Brickwood submitted Mr. Cialis's report providing particulars of eighty-four cases that had been investigated by him in Portsmouth. The report was very exhaustive and gave great satisfaction to the Committee. A hearty vote of thanks was unanimously tendered to Sir John Brickwood for his efforts.

It was reported that a meeting had been arranged for October 10th, at the house of Mr. J. H. Benyon, the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, who had kindly consented to preside. Miss B. Taylor and Mr. Wilson promised to attend and to speak.

The Chairman stated that there was every prospect of a good meeting being held at Eastbourne in November.

Miss Bainbrigge reported that she had had a very successful visit to Southampton, and that the work for the Blind in that town and district was progressing favourably.

The draft bye-laws were carefully considered, paragraph by paragraph, and several amendments were made.

The account of an interview between Miss Taylor and Baroness Rosenkrantz was given, which resulted in the Committee deciding to accept the latter's suggestion that she would continue to endeavour to obtain free tickets for concerts, etc., from the managers and others, and that they should be duly distributed amongst the Blind from the Office of the Union for

a period of one year, when the arrangement can be re-considered.

A Meeting of the Executive Committee was held at 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., on November 5th, 1910, at 11 a.m. There were present Mr. Wilson in the Chair, Miss Bainbrigge, Miss Moon, Miss Taylor, Sir John Brickwood, Sir Francis Campbell, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mr. Guy Campbell, and Miss Bennett.

The Chairman reported that the meeting held at Englefield House, Reading, under the auspices of Mr. Benyon, a Vice-President, and Lord Lieutenant for Berkshire, had been most successful, more than 100 people attending, and a sum of more than £30 being collected. Mrs. Goodhart had since written to say that a Committee, with proper officials, had been elected, and was now at work.

It was reported that a meeting will be held at Eastbourne on the 26th November, at 3 p.m., when Miss B. Taylor and Mr. Wilson had promised to speak.

Letters of regret for inability to attend the meeting were reported on behalf of Mr. Evans and Mr. Stainsby.

The Hon. Secretary read through the amendments to No. 1 leaflet, sanctioned at the last meeting, and authorization to print was given.

A letter was read from Mr. White, the Mayor of Margate.

The decisions arrived at during the meeting of the Union of Unions, were reported.

It was reported that the Case Sub-Committee met on October 13th, and considered about 20 cases, giving what advice seemed possible as to how they should be dealt with.

The Secretary-in-Charge reported that she had sent 500 leaflets on "Prevention of Blindness" to the Imperial Women's Health Association, for distribution; that 70 names had been submitted for Hetherington's Pension; and that many visitors had called at the office.

Mr. Wilson drew attention to the fact that at the end of December, Miss Bennett's temporary engagement would come to an end. After remarks expressing appreciation of her work from several members of the Committee, it was, on the motion

of Sir John Brickwood, seconded by Sir Francis Campbell, agreed that Miss Bennett be offered the appointment of Organising Secretary to the Union from January 1st next

The Chairman reported that Miss Wilson, The Cottage, Church Oakley, was willing to act as Hon. District Representative for the Union for Basingstoke, and for the part of Hampshire north of that town.

It was reported that the Borough of Paddington had made the notification of Ophthalmia Neonatorum compulsory in that borough; and also that Sir John Brickwood had delivered a most interesting and stirring address on behalf of the Blind of Portsmouth, which was fully reported in the "Portsmouth Times."

It was further reported that Baroness Rosenkrantz had formally handed over the ticket distributing part of the Ticket Bureau to the Secretary-in-Charge on November 2nd, and had kindly consented to be still entirely responsible for the work connected with approaching managers, agents, and others, for tickets to be given away.

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held on December 3rd, when there were present Mr. Wilson, in the Chair, Miss Bainbrigge, Miss Moon, Miss Taylor, Sir John Brickwood, Sir Francis Campbell, and Messrs. S. Johnson, Lempriere, Stainsby, and Guy Campbell, Hon. Secretary. The Secretary in Charge also attended. Several important matters were discussed, including the decision to appoint Hon. District Representatives in the various Metropolitan Boroughs. A report was given on the meeting at Eastbourne, and a most cordial vote of thanks passed to Miss Wheeler for her strenuous efforts. It was reported that most of the hospitals had consented to place a notice in a prominent position, drawing attention to the work of the Union, and it was also reported that the Duke of Fife, Lord Lieutenant of London, had kindly consented to be a Vice-President of the Union. Resolutions of condolence were passed in regard to the death of Mr. W. S. Seton-Karr and Mrs. Hugh Walford. The following Resolution was passed: "That the sympathies of all charitable and

religious bodies be obtained by the presence of representatives, lay or clerical, at any preliminary meeting for the object of starting a new Society, and by their inclusion on any Committee that may be formed. It is desirable that it should be made perfectly clear that the Union's work is entirely irrespective of creed."

The North of England Union. The Quarterly Meeting of this Union, on the invitation of the Committee of the Bolton Workshops for the Blind, were held at Bolton on Saturday, October 15th. The Executive Committee met at the Baths Assembly Rooms, at 11 a.m., and the General Committee at 3 p.m. in the Mayor's Dining Room, Town Hall, which had been kindly placed at their disposal by the Mayor, who, at 3.30 p.m., extended a warm welcome to the Members of the Union. Those present included Mr. F. J. Munby (York), Chairman of Committee; Mr. M. J. Fernandes Ferreira (Manchester), hon. treasurer; Miss Isabel M. Heywood (Manchester), hon. secretary; Miss Sadgrove (Darlington), organising secretary; Dr. R. N. Hartley (Leeds), Mr. W. H. Illingworth (Manchester), Colonel T. R. Jolly (Preston), Mr. W. Littlewood (Liverpool), Mr. A. B. Norwood (York). The local gentlemen present included the Vicar of Bolton (Rev. T. Chapman, B.D.), Mr. J. R. Barlow, B.A., J.P., Colonel Greg, J.P., Mrs. Greg, Mr. Chesworth, and others.

Mr. Illingworth (Henshaw's Blind Institution) gave an address on the subject of the after-care of the Blind. He spoke of the great preventive work carried on by the Northern Union, the results of which they were now beginning to see. More perfect machinery and more cultivated public opinion upon the subject had now ensued, and they should aim at preventive work. If a blind child was taken in time, in most instances the necessity for so much provision to be made in later years would be non-existent. A general discussion followed. Dr. Hartley spoke of the need of training for the blind children at the apprenticeship age. Mr. Siddall (Rochdale) speaking as one of the blind, said that sighted people were too apt to regard blind people as pieces of china to be handled with great care. Mr. Priestley

(Bradford) said that many children were now being prevented from becoming blind, but there was a greater number of people losing their sight in adult life. Mr. A. B. Norwood pleaded for individual realisation of responsibility towards the Blind, and he instanced cases in which great help had been privately given to blind persons.

A small preliminary Meeting of Ladies was addressed by the Organising Secretary at the Bolton Workshops for the Blind, on October 12th.

The Meeting of the Union of Unions, held in London on October 22nd, was attended by Miss Heywood, hon. secretary; Mr. Illingworth (Manchester), and Miss Sadgrove, organising secretary.

A Meeting of the Executive Committee was held on December 1st, at the Yorkshire School for the Blind, York.

Mr. F. J. Munby, Chairman of the Union, presided, and there were also present Mr. Fernandes Ferreira, hon. treasurer, Mrs. Putnam (Darlington), Dr. A. N. Hartley (Leeds), Mr. W. H. Illingworth (Manchester), Mr. von Niederhausern (N. Shields), Mr. A. B. Norwood (York), Mr. Theo. Warner (Bradford), Miss Sadgrove (Gainford), organising secretary, and Mr. E. J. Chesworth, secretary.

Mr. Ferreira announced his resignation as Hon. Treasurer, and a cordial vote of thanks was passed for his valuable services and generous contribution to the Funds of the Union.

The Secretaries reported as to the general work of the Union, the places visited since the last meeting and cases of blind people helped, from Bolton, Rotherham, Huddersfield, Newcastle, Croft, Hipperholme, Bingley, Sheffield, Swalwell, Preston, Scarborough and Barnsley. While others from Retford, Crewe, and Macclesfield were passed on to their respective Unions.

The next Quarterly Meeting was fixed for January 17th, at Middlesbrough, to be followed by a Public Meeting to develop work for the Blind of Cleveland.

The death of Mr. Gerald Peel (Manchester), was reported. He had been a staunch friend and loyal supporter to the Union

since its inception, and a vote of condolence to his widow and family was passed by the members rising in silence. In Mr. Peel the Union has lost a good friend who was one of the first to help, both by acting as Hon. Treasurer, and by a generous gift. He was truly interested in work for the Blind, and until he was prevented by illness, gave advice, with personal service to the cause which he was ever ready to support.

The North West Union. The 2nd annual report, for 1910, was presented at the Annual Meeting, held at Macclesfield, on October 12th.

The returns of the Blind showed an increase of 150. This is partly accounted for by the Birkenhead Society joining the Liverpool Branch of the North of England Union, and the Stockport Institute (with a larger number of Blind), being now affiliated to the North West Union.

The Meeting was well attended, an address being given by Mr. Illingworth, of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester. Much encouragement was felt at the progress made.

COLLEGE OF TEACHERS OF THE BLIND.

A Meeting of the Sub-Committee appointed to consider the advisability of granting certificates without examination, was held on 19th November, 1910, at 11 a.m., when there were present—Mr. Henry J. Wilson (Chairman), Miss M. M. R. Garaway, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. W. H. Illingworth, A. P. Pearson and Henry Stainsby (Hon. Registrar).

The Rev. St. Clare Hill submitted a draft scheme which was carefully discussed, and after amendment, was ordered to be submitted to the Committee with a view to its adoption by the Council.

A Meeting of the Fellows was held on November 19th, 1910, at 12 p.m., when there were present—Mr. Henry J. Wilson (Chairman), Sir Francis Campbell, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. W. H. Illingworth and Henry Stainsby.

Mr. Henry Stainsby, the Hon. Registrar of the College, was appointed Hon. Secretary to the Board of Fellows.

The following were unanimously recommended for election as Fellows, each fulfilling the conditions 3 (g) of the Schedule appended to the Foundation Deed of the College:—Lady Campbell, Mr. H. W. P. Pine, Dr. A. W. G. Ranger, M.A., and Mr. H. M. Taylor, M.A., F.R.S.

A Meeting of the Executive Committee was held on November 19th, 1910, at 2 p.m., when there were present:—Sir Francis and Lady Campbell, Miss L. Douglas-Hamilton, Miss M. M. R. Garaway, Mrs. Wilton Phipps, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Hon. A. M. Kinnaird, Messrs. W. H. Illingworth, B. P. Jones, Stuart Johnson, W. Littlewood, S. Maddocks, A. B. Norwood, A. P. Pearson, H. W. P. Pine, W. E. Taylor, Henry J. Wilson (Chairman) and Henry Stainsby (Hon. Registrar).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Rev. T. Barnard and Mr. W. M. Stone.

The Minutes of the last Meeting of 23rd July, 1910, were read, confirmed and signed.

It was reported that the Duke of Portland had consented to become President, and Sir Oliver Lodge, F.R.S. (Principal of Birmingham University), a Vice-President.

It was unanimously decided to recommend the Council to appoint as Vice-Presidents of the College, Lord Lamington (Chairman of the Royal Normal College), and Miss Alice S. Armitage (Member of the Council of the British and Foreign Blind Association).

A cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the Committee and Staff of the School for the Blind, Wavertree, Liverpool, for facilities given for conducting the last Examination.

It was moved by Mr. H. W. P. Pine, seconded by Mr. S. Maddocks and resolved "That the Examinations of the College be thrown open to eligible Candidates in all parts of the world." The Board of Examiners were asked to draft a scheme and submit it to this Committee.

The report and recommendations of the Sub-Committee appointed to consider the issue of Certificates without Examina-

tion, and Certificates to Teachers of Industrial Subjects, were read and approved, subject to slight alterations.

The Board of Fellows having submitted a list of persons whom they nominated as Fellows, it was moved by Mr. S. Maddocks, seconded by Mr. Stuart Johnson and resolved "That this Committee approve the Fellows' nominations and recommend Lady Campbell, Mr. H. W. P. Pine, Dr. A. W. G. Ranger, and Mr. H. M. Taylor, M.A., F.R.S., to the Council for election as Fellows."

The suggested alterations in the Syllabus were submitted by the Hon. Secretary of the Board of Examiners and approved.

Messrs. Jones and Illingworth submitted a Report embodying suggestions for teaching children suffering from deafness and blindness, and for examining those who impart instruction to them. It was resolved to confer on the matter with the College of Teachers of the Deaf. Messrs. Jones and Illingworth and the Hon. Registrar were appointed for this purpose.

It was resolved to hold the Annual Meeting on one of the Saturdays early in March, and names were submitted of those who were to be asked to preside.

Correspondence between the National Association of Teachers of the Deaf and the Board of Education was produced, dealing with the classification of blind and deaf children as "defective" in the Board's Medical Officer's Report. The Board have now agreed to use the title "The Special Schools for the Blind, Deaf, Defective and Epileptic Children" in connection with the next Report.

It was moved by Sir Francis Campbell, seconded by the Hon. Arthur M. Kinnaird, "That the Examiners for 1910 be re-appointed."

Mr. Norwood having expressed a wish to retire from the Board in order to introduce new life, moved, and it was seconded by Rev. St. Clare Hill "That Mr. W. M. Stone be and he is hereby appointed Examiner."

The following were thereupon elected Examiners for the ensuing year:—Miss Garaway, Rev. St. Clare Hill, M.A., Messrs. W. H. Illingworth, F.C.T.B., A. P. Pearson, B.A., and W. M. Stone, F.E.I.S.

The Rev. St. Clare Hill gave notice that at the next Meeting of the Council he would move "That a new office—that of Moderator—be created, and that the College appoint annually one of the retiring Examiners to act in that capacity."

It was recommended to the Council that Mr. A. B. Norwood be appointed first Moderator.

TOUCH, AS A FACTOR IN THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.

By Miss Isabella Luker.

(*A Blind Teacher in the London County Council School for the Blind, Woolwich*).

TOUCH TO THE BLIND.—It is not necessary here to deal with the physiological aspect of the sense of touch, for we are more concerned with its practical application; but it is most important that we should realize exactly what is meant by "Touch" when the word is used in reference to the Blind. In this connection, particularly from an educational point of view, it means something much broader than is usually conveyed by the word, for it is the most active agent in supplying knowledge of external objects. When a child is very young, and its vocabulary so small as to render verbal descriptions of little value, in teaching, the fingers are the only channel through which ideas of form, density, etc., can reach the brain, therefore, to the young Blind touch is really artificial sight. This is almost equally true of the adult as the child, for, however accurate may be the description of some object, when the original thing, or a model of it, is presented to the hand, we discover how imperfect is the mental picture we have formed, compared with the reality. For this reason, models should be used whenever possible, though they may be expensive in the beginning; for they must take the place of the pictures, drawings, and blackboard sketches which aid the teacher so much in the ordinary school. Raised pictures

may be helpful to those who remember seeing, but I think most people will agree with me, that to those who have never known sight, they convey no idea whatever of the object portrayed, for a child will often be unable to distinguish the different parts even when he has been told what the whole represents. A child's notion of a bird, for instance, will be quite erroneous, unless he has held one in his hand at some time, or thoroughly examined a stuffed one; and then, a raised picture would help to show the differences in size of bill, length of neck, and such distinctive points.

TOUCH IN INFANCY.—Infants begin to use their hands very early in life. Who has not noticed the tenacity with which the smallest baby will hold fast to a finger which is put into its hand. As the infant grows, he is not content with merely SEEING the gaslight or bright object which attracts his attention, he will stretch out his hand to seize it. By the time he is old enough to run about, one frequently hears the expression: "His hands are in everything." This is true of sighted children; but the wish to touch everything should be there, even to a greater extent, in an active-minded, normal blind baby, for it has no other means of examining its surroundings. Unfortunately, however, many of the babies with whom we are concerned are not normal, sometimes on account of another defect as well as blindness, but oftener simply as the result of unwise treatment. Even if the other senses are perfect, the brain must suffer in development by the loss of the exercise necessary in using the eye; neither is there the means of interesting the baby, or attracting his attention by the sight of brightly-coloured toys, etc. For these reasons, the brain of a normal, or even a clever blind child may often remain dormant long after the time when that of a seeing one has become quite active. During the first two or three years of a blind child's life, the hands and ears are, then, the chief roads from the external world to the brain, and the best possible use must be made of both. The baby hands should be clapped, the fingers separated and played with, rattles and other sounding toys placed in them, and any device used which will encourage movement and sensation; and thus, not only will the

foundation be laid for good manual work hereafter, but it will help somewhat to take up the mental growth which has been retarded by the non-use of the eye. This earliest infant development rests, naturally, in the hands of the mother; but many parents have neither the time nor knowledge to carry it out successfully, and much of it falls to the share of the teacher after the little one has been admitted into school. It is a very serious thing to contemplate how much the success of a blind adult depends upon the treatment he received in infancy; and one cannot emphasize too strongly the importance of educating parents up to their duty to a child suffering with any physical defect, blindness more than all. Surely it would help matters if the school visitors and other workers were asked to report such cases to the authorities, with a view to giving advice about special treatment, or in order to ascertain the earliest age at which the child could be sent to school. When the little one of five has been accustomed to play and move about with other children, even if he should be a little backward at first, he will soon fall into line; but it is those who have not yet "Awakened," so to speak, who so sorely tax the teacher's ingenuity. At the age of five, these backward children will often be only as far advanced as a baby of two or three, and they must be taught the very earliest lessons of infancy, the hands playing an important part. This "Awakening" may never come, in consequence of a mental defect; or it may occur only after much time and trouble have been expended upon the child; but the mental and physical condition of a blind child of five depends so much upon the treatment it received during the first three years of its life, and they are so closely connected, that it is quite impossible to form a correct judgment of the child until it has been under school training for some time. However dull, or even defective he may appear at first sight, it seems only fair that he should have a trial with ordinary children. Much of the foregoing matter applies more to the development of the brain, perhaps, than the hand; but in the first few years of life the two are so dependent upon each other that they must be treated more or less together.

TRAINING OF TOUCH IN SCHOOL.—Everyone now fully

recognises the importance of manual work in schools for the Blind. From the ages of five to seven, the hands should play some part in every lesson, if possible—number exercises with objects, examining articles, playing with toys, particularly dressing and undressing dolls, action songs and poems, Kindergarten games, and many other ways. By so doing, the touch will be developed; and, equally important, the busy fingers will have less opportunity to acquire bad habits, which are so difficult to overcome later. As the child advances in his school career, the same idea can be followed up by using scales and measures in Arithmetic, maps and plans in Geography, original or other models in Object Lessons, etc.

CHILDREN DEFECTIVE IN TOUCH.—Every school for the Blind contains a certain number of children who are unable to use their hands to any purpose, and it is often the most intelligent ones who labour under this disadvantage. It is a great misfortune to the one concerned, for it transforms the simplest natural acts of daily life into difficult tasks, and robs him of the prospect of earning his living by manual work. Defective touch may arise from three causes:—

1. Want of sensibility in the finger tips.
2. A lack of muscular power and flexibility in the wrist, hand, and fingers.
3. Insufficient brainpower to guide the hands.

The power to discriminate with the tips of the fingers often depends upon the lightness with which an object is touched; and it is very important to pay due attention to those occupations which call forth careful, delicate touch. Clay modelling is valuable in this connection, for the child can feel for himself the slightest mark which he makes upon his work. Later, the tools used in wood-work will serve the same purpose, for carelessness will lead to disaster. The same thing is true in cookery and laundry work for the girls. Some children have keen sensibility in the finger-tips, and yet are most awkward in using and moving their hands, hence the reason why some of the worst manual workers are excellent Braille readers. These children require special exercises for the hand and wrist. Piano playing would

aid in overcoming this difficulty. It usually happens that when a child is awkward in using his hands he does not find his way about easily; and probably this is due in some measure to the weak working of all the muscles, as well as to timidity and slowness in locating sound. Physical exercise is invaluable here. Walking, running, drill, dancing steps, the following of a given signal, approaching a stationary sound, in short, anything which involves movement of every part of the body as well as the hands. Parents may be asked to allow the girls to take their share in the little duties and errands which fall naturally to the children in a home. When the brain is unable to guide the hands, everything must depend upon the mental development. Curiously enough, some of the children who are most defective mentally will use their hands very well, in the beginning, though they probably will not be able to do work that is in the least complicated.

Bearing in mind how important it is for children to touch things, that is, to take them in their own hands and examine them, they should be taught to embrace every suitable opportunity of handling new or strange objects; as they grow, natural delicacy will prevent them from intruding in their search for knowledge. Every school should be provided with a well-filled museum. The children take the greatest pleasure in adding to it themselves. By these means the young mind will be stored with pictures like those left after seeing an object.

WORKSHOPS FOR THE BLIND OF LONDON— FEDERATION BOARD.

For several years, those interested in the Workshops for the Blind of the Metropolis have been enquiring whether something could not be done to avoid overlapping, and to encourage joint action in a common cause. It is, therefore, with much pleasure that we can announce the fact that the above-named Board has been formed with the object of giving life and shape to that long felt need. We are able to state that all the seven Workshops of London have joined the new Federation. The Rev. Dr. Rosedale

is, Hon. Secretary of the Board, and the following is a copy of the Constitution :—

The name shall be “Workshops for the Blind of London—Federation Board.”

The area of the Board shall be the Metropolitan Postal area.

All societies having Workshops for the Blind within the area above defined, shall be eligible for federation and are hereinafter referred to as the ‘federated societies.’

The objects of the Board shall be :—

- (a) To promote co-operation among the ‘federated societies’ with a view to greater efficiency and economy.
- (b) To consider and suggest lines of action to the ‘federated societies,’ to advise them, when consulted, and to take such steps as the Board may think fit, with a view to assisting, encouraging and otherwise benefiting such ‘federated societies.’

The government of the Board shall be vested in a committee consisting of “ordinary members” and “federated members,” with power to add to their number and to fill vacancies. The first ordinary members shall be :—

Mr. C. W. Archer
(*Chairman Tottenham Court
Road Workshop*).

Mr. Pretor W. Chandler.
(*Swiss Cottage Workshop*).

Mr. F. O. Smithers
(*Retired*).

Mr. Stuart Johnson
(*Waterloo Road Workshop*).

Mr. Henry J. Wagg
(*Hon. Treas. Barclay Workshop*).

The Rev. P. T. Bainbrigge
(*Chairman Kent Workshop*).

Sir R. Ellis Cunliffe
(*Chairman West London Workshop*).

The Rev. Dr. H. G. Rosedale
(*Hon. Sec. Surrey Association*).

Mr. Henry Stainsby.
(*Sec. General B. & F. Blind Assoc.*)
and

Mr. Henry J. Wilson ;
(*Secretary Gardner's Trust*).

of whom the first Chairman shall be Mr. Henry J. Wilson, and the first Hon. Solicitor shall be Mr. Pretor W. Chandler.

Every federated society in the month of December, 1911, and in every subsequent December, shall appoint one member of its own committee to serve on the Federation Board for the ensuing year, who shall be eligible for re-election. Such member shall be called a "federated member" and may be one of the "ordinary" members of the Board.

The Federation Board shall meet at least once a month, with the exception of August and September, at such time and places as they shall decide, except that every alternate meeting shall be held, if possible, at the workshops of one or other of the federated societies, in order to meet the committee of that society where its work is actually being carried on.

A quorum of the Board shall consist of four members.

Any alteration of this Constitution may be made by a majority of three-quarters of the members of the Board for the time being, confirmed by a majority at a subsequent meeting.

Meetings of the Board have been held on June 24th, July 6th and 20th, October 19th, November 18th and 28th, and December 21st. It is with much regret that we have to announce the resignation of Mr. Smithers, Chairman of the Swiss Cottage Workshop, on account of failing health. The Rev. Barton Mills has been elected as a second representative from the Tottenham Court Road Workshop. A traveller for the united seven workshops has been advertised for, and it is expected that he will be appointed, and at work, soon after these words appear in print. We sincerely hope that this earnest endeavour to bring the Workshops in London closer together for common counsel and action, may prove successful in the interests of the Blind.

The members of the Board visited the West London Workshop for the Blind on 11th inst., and the one in Tottenham Court Road on 12th inst. The other Workshops will probably be visited this month.

The Blind.

VOL. III.

No. 54.

APRIL 20TH, 1911.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before June 18th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. Mr. Edward R. P. Moon has been elected a member of the Committee of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, in the room of the late Mr. W. S. Seton-Karr. Mr. Moon was member of Parliament for North St. Pancras for 10½ years, and had to retire from his candidature in 1909 under the orders of his oculist. Mr. Moon has travelled very extensively in different foreign countries. He is a Guardian of the Poor in Kensington.

2. It is with sincere regret that we have to report the death of Mr. E. V. Greatbatch, whose name has often appeared in these pages and who will be remembered not only as one who took a most active part in the Potteries in the education and training of the Blind, and successfully started the North Staffordshire Workshops for the Blind at Hanley, but also because it was through his action and influence that Ophthalmia Neonatorum was first made a compulsorily notifiable disease. With what remarkable results, the article on "Preventable Blindness" in the number for the 20th of October last furnishes clear evidence. He used frequently to write to us on the subject and was always

delighted to hear of Medical Officers of Health in other districts following the lead given in the Potteries. How rejoiced he would have been to read the list, kindly provided by the Local Government Board, which appears at the end of this paragraph. Mr. Greatbatch had promised to introduce the question of "Infantile Blindness," at the Exeter Conference, after Dr. Reid's paper on the same subject, and the presence of one so keenly interested in the matter will be greatly missed. Mr. Greatbatch was chairman of the North Staffordshire School for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, and also of the Workshops, at the opening of which a few years ago, it was our pleasure to give an address at the request of Mr. Greatbatch. We then realized more than ever his earnest and persistent efforts for the betterment of the Blind. He was for four years in succession President of the North Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce, a member of the County Education and other important Committees.

The following authorities have, with the approval of the Local Government Board, extended the provisions of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, in their districts to Ophthalmia Neonatorum, either permanently, or for a limited period, which has not yet expired. Where not otherwise indicated, the extension is a permanent one :—

TOWN COUNCILS (27).—Accrington, Bolton, Chester, Chorley, Croydon, Eccles, Haslingden (3 years from May, 1910); Leigh (Lancs), Lichfield, Macclesfield, Manchester, Middleton, Neath (12 months from May, 1910); Newcastle-under-Lyme, Norwich, Rawtenstall, Rotherham, St. Helens (Lancs), Smethwick, Stoke-on-Trent, Tamworth, Walsall, Wednesbury, Widnes (12 months from July, 1910); Wimbledon, Wolverhampton.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCILS (35).—Abram, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Aspull, Atherton, Audenshaw, Blackrod, Crompton, Croston, Darlaston, Denton, Failsworth, Farnworth, Fulwood, Great Crosby, Hindley, Horwich, Hurst, Ince-in-Makerfield, Kearsley, Lathom and Burscough, Leek, Lees, Little Hulton, Newton-in-Makerfield, Oswaldtwistle, Padiham, Prescott, Rams-

bottom, Sedgley, Stourbridge, Stretford, Walton-le-Dale, Waterloo-with-Seaforth, Willenhall, Wolstanton United.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILS (9).—Barton-upon-Irwell, Bury, Chorley, Evesham, Lichfield, Limehurst, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Walsall, West Lancashire.

The London County Council have, with the approval of the Local Government Board, extended the provisions of Section 55 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1891, to Ophthalmia Neonatorum, in respect of the whole administrative county. This order of the Council came into operation on March 13th. The Town Council of Huddersfield have, with the Board's approval, added Ophthalmia Neonatorum to the list of diseases, compulsorily notifiable in the Borough under the provisions of a Local Act.

SUMMARY.

Metropolitan Boroughs	...	...	...	29
Boroughs	...	...	...	27
Urban Districts...	...	...	...	35
Rural Districts ...	...	...	...	9
Total	...	...	...	100

Since this table was compiled, we have received information that, on the motion of Mr. Arthur Lowe, Chairman of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, the following resolution was carried unanimously at the December meeting of the General Committee of the Institution :—

“That in the opinion of this Committee the disease known as Ophthalmia Neonatorum, that is, inflammation of the eyes in new-born children, should be added to the list of diseases compulsorily notifiable under the powers of the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889.”

A copy of this resolution was sent to the Medical Officer of Health of the City, with the result that at a Meeting of the City Council held on March 7th the Health Committee recommended that the disease referred to should be made a notifiable one, and the City Council approved of the recommendation.

It is very encouraging and most satisfactory to know how rapidly the compulsory notification of Ophthalmia Neonatorum is extending, as it will most certainly diminish the cases of blindness from this terribly infectious disease.

3. Mr. Alfred Thompson, F.R.C.O., and Mr. John Lawson, F.R.C.O., both Gardner Scholars at the Royal Normal College, passed in December the Licentiate Examination of the Royal Academy of Music in Pianoforte Playing. Mr. Thompson, who was formerly a pupil at the School for the Blind, Bristol, left the College at Christmas, and has obtained an organ appointment at the Congregational Church, Pontypool.

4. The fourth edition of 2000 copies of the pamphlet "Information with regard to Institutions, Societies, and Classes for the Blind in England and Wales, with a Preface," by Mr. Henry J. Wilson is now out of print, but a new edition is being prepared as quickly as possible. Ten thousand copies of this pamphlet have already been printed.

5. The question in the recent Census paper in regard to the Blind must have been very disappointing to all those working on their behalf. To ascertain the number of those "totally blind" is of little or no service to them, as they are desirous of knowing how many blind persons there are in the United Kingdom. The introduction for the first time of the qualifying adverb, "totally," which excludes probably two thirds of those who must be treated as blind, makes the returns of 1911 useless as far as comparison with previous statistics is concerned, that is to say, if the returns have been accurately made, and only totally blind people have been enumerated. No wonder that almost despair seized some of the authorities of the Schools for the Blind as to how their pupils were to be entered—take one School of which we know, with 70 pupils of whom only 20 are totally blind. Were the 50 to be practically returned as sighted inasmuch as they could not be included under "totally blind?" We were courteously received by the Registrar General on two occasions

last year, being accompanied on one occasion by Dr. Bishop Harman, when the Schedule was being prepared, and we pressed very earnestly the necessity to adopt some definition—we suggested several—to include all those who are unable to be trained or to earn their living by sighted means. The response to the request is to exclude all those who are not totally blind. It would have been far better to have used only the word “blind,” as in previous Census papers.

6. An important meeting was held in London on March the 25th, when representatives of the respective committees of most of the Institutions for the Blind in the United Kingdom, discussed the Blind Aid Bill, shortly to be introduced into the House of Commons. A Bill on somewhat similar lines had been read a first time on several occasions. In these Bills, however, the existing Institutions, which have done almost everything that has been done up to the present time, in training and finding employment for the Blind, were completely ignored. On December 29th a deputation from the National Employment Committee approached the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress, who are apparently backing the Bill, to bring this fact to their notice and also to show them a Bill drafted by the Employment Committee. At this meeting the two Bills were printed opposite each other so as to make the comparison of them more easy. A further meeting was held on January 17th, but a few days previously the draft of a new Bill was received, embodying two clauses almost verbatim from the Employment Bill, and for the first time recognising existing Institutions. This Bill is the one presented at the meeting held on March 25th, when the members present expressed the view that the State should be responsible for the technical training of capable blind persons over 16 years of age who need it, in the same manner as it is already responsible for the elementary education of those under 16 by the provisions of the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act 1893.

They further agreed that the State and County and Borough Councils, as well as Parish Councils, Scotland, should assist in

the better and more general employment of the Blind. The Representatives, however, were unable to approve the Bill as drafted, but appointed the following Committee to consider the whole question:—Lord Lamington, Sir James King, Bart., Sir Edward O'Malley, Rev. Dr. Burns, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. J. J. Burton, A. L. Lowe, Fiennes, Stuart Johnson, Illingworth, Pine, Priestley, Stainsby, and Wilson.

7. Through the courtesy of Major-General A. E. Codrington, C.B., Chairman of the "Blind Charities Committee" of the Social Welfare Association for London, and with the permission of Sir Arthur Downes of the Local Government Board, we are enabled to print the following most interesting return of blind persons in Metropolitan Workhouses and other Poor-Law Institutions on February 11th, 1911. This return—subject possibly to an addition of a few cases of children in Metropolitan Asylum Board Institutions (it is not thought that there are any, but the return from these is not quite complete)—is now available for the information of the Social Welfare Association.

A summary of totals is as follows:—Totals include 32 cases in Croydon and West Ham.

		Males.	Females.	Children.
Aged 0 to 5 years ...	...	—	6	6
„ 5 „ 15 „ ...	...	3	3	6
„ 15 „ 25 „ ...	...	14	9	23
„ 25 „ 45 „ ...	...	55	53	108
„ 45 „ 60 „ ...	...	113	90	203
„ 60 „ 70 „ ...	...	148	153	301
„ 70 and over ...	...	185	378	563
Totals ...		518	692	1,210

No cases of persons of unsound mind in the Metropolitan Asylum Board Asylums are included; nor any—if there be such—in the Fever Hospitals of that Authority.

Detailed lists from each Board of Guardians giving the name and age of each blind person in the return can be seen

by the Committee of the Social Welfare Association, if desired. Only one child was under one year of age.

8. The annual Christmas festival of the Royal Normal College was held on January 26th, and the Chair was taken by Lord Malmesbury, who spoke most appreciatively and sympathetically of the work being done at the College, work out of all proportion to the assistance given. He stated that it was one of those Institutions which ought to be aided substantially by the State, and he hoped that during this Coronation year, the general public would wipe off the mortgage debt of £11,000 in order to obtain the conditional promise of £500 from Sir William Mather. There was an excellent concert. Lady Malmesbury not only unveiled the Christmas tree laden with many presents, but also gave two violin solos, accompanied by Mr. Victor Spanner, Mus. Bac., F.R.C.O., a former student of the College.

9. The School for the Indigent Blind at Leatherhead has recently received permission from His Majesty, King George the V., to use the prefix "Royal" in the name of the School. It will, therefore, henceforth be styled "The Royal School for the Indigent Blind."

This School, one of the earliest Institutions in England for the training of the Blind, was founded in St. George's Fields in 1799. The next year the Trustees leased from the City of London the premises known as St. George's Spa, where the first School was established. In 1810-1815 the transfer of Bethlem Hospital to St. George's Fields necessitated the removal of the School to a leasehold site, obtained from the City of London, situated opposite the Obelisk, at the southern end of Blackfriars Road, where a plain but commodious School House was erected. In 1826 the School was incorporated by Royal Charter, and in the following year the freehold of the School site was acquired. In 1832, the purchase of land in Lambeth Road enabled the Corporation of the School to re-model and extend the buildings to accommodate 150 resident male and female pupils. In 1901, the School and its site having been purchased by the Baker

Street and Waterloo Railway Company, the Corporation acquired 15 acres of freehold land at Leatherhead, and on this site the present School with accommodation for 250 pupils was erected. In 1902, the pupils were moved from St. George's Circus, and all the buildings, including Chapel, Sanatorium, Residence and Gymnasium were completed in 1904.

10. As an experiment, the Committee of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind have decided to grant an Easter Holiday from Thursday, the 13th, until Monday, the 24th of April, on the understanding that the Christmas Vacation will be curtailed by a like period.

With the sanction of the Board of Education another experiment is being tried at the Birmingham Royal Institution, by receiving about 40 Day Scholars. Briefly summarised, these children may be classified as follows: 12 Progressive Myopia, 7 Congenital Causes, 14 Corneal Opacities, 14 Acute Keratitis. The instruction imparted to these pupils is chiefly on the oral system, and the children remain at the Carpenter Road Institution for the mid-day meal. So far the experiment is proving to be extremely satisfactory, and the Education Committee for the City of Birmingham is contributing at the rate of 10 guineas per annum for each child. It is the intention of the authorities to arrange for a number of these children to be transferred to ordinary schools after they have received tuition at the Institution for the Blind for a period of 18 months or 2 years, the object being to rest the eyes of the children as much as possible, otherwise they would become practically blind.

11. The following are the conditions upon which Free Passes are issued on the London County Council Tramways for the necessitous Blind, who have to give their name, occupation, means of subsistence (stating average earnings per week), route over which they intend to travel, and where they board and leave the car:—

1.—That it is issued subject to, and in conformity with, the Council's by-laws, rules and regulations.

2.—That it is to be used only on the routes indicated thereon.

3.—That it is issued on the strict understanding that the holder, when travelling on a car, shall be accompanied by a guide, and that the guide shall pay the ordinary fare.

4.—That it is to be surrendered to the Council on the date of expiry, and, should a renewal thereof be required, an application must be made to the Chief Officer, 62, Finsbury Pavement, London, E.C., 10 days before that date.

5.—That it is not to be transferred to, or made use of, by any person other than the person indicated thereon.

6.—That on every occasion when travelling on a car the pass is to be shewn to any ticket inspector, or conductor of the Council, and that the pass is to be considered the property of the Council.

7.—That the pass is issued upon the understanding, and the use of it, shall be taken as conclusive evidence of an agreement with the Council, that the latter are relieved from all liability in respect of any delay or injury to the person or property of the person using it.

8.—Should the pass be lost or mislaid, the occurrence must be reported at once to the Chief Officer. A reward of 2s. 6d., offered to the finder of the pass, must be paid by the person to whom the pass was issued.

9.—The Council reserve the right to cancel the pass at any time.

NOTE.—A photograph must be provided at the expense of the applicant, and must be a black and white unmounted print of the following dimensions:— $2\frac{1}{4}'' \times 3\frac{1}{4}''$. The photograph should be forwarded with this form.

Any change of address must be at once communicated to the Chief Officer.

12. Copies of the report of the International Conference on the Blind, held at Manchester, can now be obtained only at the office of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W. Price per copy 2/6, or by post 2/10.

13.—The Barclay Workshop for Blind Women, 246, Edgware Road, London, W., has issued a revised Price List, which can be obtained from the Superintendent.

14.—The London County Council School for Defective Blind Boys, at Stormont House, was closed at Easter.

THE UNIONS OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

North of England Union. The Quarterly Meeting of this Union was held by the invitation of the Committee of the Middlesborough and Cleveland Workshops for the Blind, on January 17th, at 11 a.m. in that town—when the general business of the Union was transacted.

At 2 p.m. a visit was paid to the Workshops for the Blind by members of the Union.

A meeting was held at 3 p.m. (by kind permission of the Mayor—Sir Samuel Sadler), in the Mayor's Parlour, to consider the advisability of forming a local visiting committee in conjunction with the Middlesborough and Cleveland Workshops for the Blind.

Mr. J. J. Burton (Hon. Sec. of the Workshops) presided, and amongst those present were: Mr. F. J. Munby (York), Chairman of the North of England Union, Miss Heywood (Manchester), Dr. R. N. Hartley (Leeds), Councillor Barker (Manchester), Major Johnson (Middlesborough), Mr. Penry Williams, M.P., several of the local clergy, and others.

Addresses were given by Miss Sadgrove (Organizing Secretary) and Mr. Siddall, Blind Visitor (Rochdale).

On Feb. 16th the Annual Gathering of members and friends in connection with the Workshops for the Blind, was held in the Steelworkers' Institute, Middlesborough and they were addressed by Miss Sadgrove (Org. Sec.).

On February 17th a large Drawing Room Meeting was kindly given by Mrs. Winpenny, Cavendish House, Middles-

borough, for the purpose of forming a local Blind Visiting Society. and the Organising Secretary of the Union (Miss Sadgrove) gave an address. At the close of the meeting 14 ladies were enrolled as Visitors, with Mrs. Winpenny as Hon. Secretary.

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the King's Manor, York, on March 9th. Mr. F. J. Munby presided and there were present: Miss Heywood (Hon. Sec.), Miss Sadgrove (Org. Sec.), Mr. A. B. Norwood (York), Dr. R. N. Hartley and Mr. Illingworth (Manchester).

Cases have been dealt with by the Union since Dec. 31st, 1910, from Newcastle, Huddersfield, Stockton, Consett, Liverpool and Barnard Castle.

The Annual Meeting of the Union will be held at Bradford on May 1st.

The Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union. A meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the Offices of the Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, on January 14th, when there were present Mr. Wilson in the Chair, Miss Bainbriggs, Miss Taylor, Sir John Brickwood, Sir Francis Campbell, Mr. Stuart Johnson, Mr. Stainsby, Mr. Guy Campbell, and Miss Bennett.

A letter of regret for inability to attend the meeting was reported on behalf of Miss Moon.

The Chairman reported that the Duke of Bedford, the Lord Lieutenant of Middlesex, and the Marquess of Winchester, Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, had kindly consented to become Vice-Presidents.

It was reported that Sir John Brickwood had further endeavoured to enlist the Dickens' Society in taking up the work of the Blind in Portsmouth.

Mr. Johnson reported that he had been actively engaged in securing ladies and gentlemen to act as representatives in each of the Metropolitan Boroughs, and hoped to be able to submit a complete list before very long.

A letter was read from Mr. Walford stating that Miss Burnett was willing to act as a representative in Hampshire. The Chairman was requested to see that the district undertaken by Miss Burnett did not overlap any of the other districts already represented in that county.

Mr. Wilson reported that letters had been received from the British Association for the Advancement of Science, stating that the Association would do all they could to help the Union in propagating information with regard to the evils of Ophthalmia Neonatorum. It was agreed that 900 Leaflets should be sent to the Association.

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held on 4th February, at 11 a.m., when there were present Mr. Wilson in the Chair, Miss Bainbrigge, Miss Moon, Miss Taylor, Sir John Brickwood, Sir Francis Campbell, Mr. Stuart Johnson, Mr. Stainsby, Mr. Guy Campbell, and Miss Bennett.

The Hon. Treasurer presented his report.

The Chairman reported that a Conference of Representatives of Institutions for the Blind had been summoned for the 25th March in order to discuss the draft of a Bill affecting the instruction, employment and maintenance of the Blind.

The Chairman further reported that the Hon. Henry Cubitt, Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, and the Marquess Camden, Lord Lieutenant of Kent, had kindly consented to become Vice-Presidents.

It was reported that the Case Committee met on 25th January and considered 17 cases.

A Meeting was held on the 4th March, at 11 a.m. when there were present Mr. Wilson in the Chair, Mrs. Inglis, Miss Taylor, Sir Francis Campbell, Mr. Evans, Mr. Stuart Johnson, Mr. Lempriere, Mr. Guy Campbell, and Miss Bennett.

Regret for inability to attend the Meeting was reported on behalf of Miss Bainbrigge and Sir John Brickwood.

It was reported that 18 Hospitals had been supplied with 70 of the printed notices of the Union, and that the Case

Committee met on the 8th February and considered 14 fresh cases.

The Organising Secretary reported that Mr. Stuart Johnson had presented a Borough Map to the Union and was having the lists of streets belonging to each Borough typed out for the use of Borough Representatives and that 44 tickets had been issued from the ticket Bureau.

The Chairman reported that Dr. Ranger had kindly submitted a Draft Constitution, but that, as there was not sufficient time to discuss it now, he recommended that the Executive should ask the Council to pass a Resolution empowering the Executive Committee to embody the principles of the Constitution of the Union in a legal document. This recommendation was agreed to.

The Annual Meeting was held at 53, Victoria Street. Westminster, S.W., on 4th March at 12 noon. There were present, Mr. H. J. Wilson in the Chair, Miss E. W. Austin, Miss G. E. Austin, Miss Agnes Bailey, Rev. P. Bainbrigge, Rev. W. G. Bell, Miss Bennett, Miss A. M. Harris Browne, Miss M. E. Harris Browne, Sir Francis Campbell, Mr. Guy Campbell, Miss Charnock, Sir Ellis Cunliffe, Mr. C. E. Dustow, Mrs. H. D. Eden, Miss. M. Everett, Miss Marjory Eyre, Miss A. Feilberg, Mrs. Gatty, Mr. E. C. Hamley, Mrs. Inglis, Miss F. H. Jervoise, Mr. Stuart Johnson, Mr. W. Lempriere, Miss May, Mr. T. H. Martin, Mr. T. W. Morphey, Mr. F. J. Mulley, Miss E. M. Owtram, Miss Robins, Miss. I. Sharpe, Miss B. Taylor, and Mr. J. Tennant.

The minutes of the meeting of the 5th March, 1910, were read and confirmed.

Letters of regret for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Miss Bainbrigge, Sir John Brickwood, Mr. Edmonds, Miss Forster, Mrs. Goodhart, Miss K. Griffith, Miss Hastings, Mr. H. Hyams, Mrs. Le Mesurier, Miss Meiklejon, Miss Moon, Miss E. Moore, Miss Reid, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Miss E. Scott, Mr. W. E. Terry, Miss Wilson and Mr. H. Wagg.

The following gentlemen were unanimously elected Officers of the Union for 1911-12.

Chairman, Mr. H. J. Wilson ; Mover, Mr. S. Johnson ;
 Second, Sir Francis Campbell.

Hon. Treasurer, Mr. S. Johnson ; Mover, Mr. H. J. Wilson ;
 Second, Sir Francis Campbell.

Hon. Secretary, Mr. Guy Campbell ; Mover, Mr. H. J. Wilson ; Second, Mr. John Tennant.

Hon. Solicitor, Dr. Ranger ; Mover ; Mr. H. J. Wilson ;
 Second, Mr. T. W. Morphey.

The Chairman in returning thanks for his re-election wished to draw the attention of the Council to the fact that the work had steadily increased during the year, as would be shown by the annual report which was to be submitted. He dwelt particularly on the invaluable assistance rendered by Hon. District Representatives, and expressed the hope that before another annual meeting every Borough in London will be duly represented.

After referring to the appointment of Miss Bennett as Organising Secretary, he invited ladies with spare time to attend the office and help when possible.

The ladies and gentlemen forming the executive for the year just ended retired, but offered themselves for re-election. On the motion of Mr. Tennant seconded by the Rev. H. Bright, the same ladies and gentlemen were unanimously elected to the Executive Committee. On the motion of Mr. Morphey seconded by Mr. Tennant the following five ladies were also added to the Committee, Miss A. M. Harris Browne, Miss Burnett, Miss Charnock, Mrs. Goodhart, and Miss Wheeler.

The chairman reported that a constitution had been prepared by Dr. Ranger, but that it had not, as yet, been possible for the Executive Committee to consider it. He, therefore, asked if the Council would be willing to grant the Executive full power and authority "to embody the principles of the constitution of the Union in a legal document, with power to make such modifications as this will necessitate or may be found advisable." On the motion of Mr. Tennant seconded by the Rev. P. T. Bainbrigge, this resolution was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. Lempriere seconded by Mr. Tennant the annual Report which was presented in draft was adopted.

The Hon. Treasurer presented his Financial Statement for the year 1910, and, on the motion of Mr. Morphey seconded by Mr. Hamley, it was received and adopted.

Sir Ellis Cunliffe on behalf of the West London Workshops for the Blind, said he should be much pleased to welcome any representatives who chose to come and make themselves acquainted with what was being done there.

Midland Counties Union The General Meeting of the Union was held at the Midland Institution for the Blind, Nottingham, the Duke of Portland, President of the Union, being in the Chair, on Wednesday, 1st of February. The report of the Executive Committee for the year was adopted, and a most interesting and sympathetic address followed by Mr. Munby. A resolution recommending the compulsory notification of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, proposed by the President and seconded by Mr. Arthur L. Lowe, Chairman of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, was carried unanimously, and has since been forwarded to the Medical Officers of Health of all Rural and Urban District Councils within the Midland area where such notification is not already made compulsory. A further result of the meeting has been the opening out of a new visiting centre in the Rural Deanery of Kingham.

At Oxford a new move has been made in the offer of Prizes at the forthcoming Arts and Crafts Exhibition, for the best knitted scarf, and pair of stockings, and for baskets, hand-made by blind persons working in their own homes. There will also be a stall for the sale of articles made by the Blind, and we hope to have some good exhibits.

Meantime from all parts come applications for aid and advice, many of them from young men and women who have received training, and now cannot find any work. And our need is still great for more visitors—more concentration of effort and organization of scattered forces.

THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH.

By Miss M. Rothwell.

(Head Teacher in the London County Council Residential and Day School for the Blind, Elm Court, West Norwood, S.E.)

The teaching of English in Elementary Schools, including of course Schools for the Blind, comprises all those subjects which lead to the correct speaking, writing, and understanding of our mother tongue. Under the name English, then, we shall have to consider reading, writing (both dictation and composition), recitation, grammar, literature, and, to a certain extent, singing. And while it is both necessary and advantageous, in a paper like this, to consider the teaching of each branch of the subject "English" separately, yet in the actual teaching it is well constantly to bear in mind, as Professor Welton says, that

"All the studies included under the term English should form an organic whole, and be so taught as to aid and illustrate each other."

The teaching of English in all its branches is generally fascinating work, but particularly so in our own special schools, for we are at a considerable advantage over teachers in ordinary elementary schools, in this subject at any rate, for, our classes being smaller, we can do much more individual work and obtain results much more readily and of higher standard than is possible for them with their larger numbers. Indeed, from my own experience, I hold that it is essentially to Blind Schools, educationalists ought to be able to turn in order to find examples of the highest to be obtained in the teaching of English in elementary schools.

Let us first of all think of the work which can be attempted with our infant children, those below Grade I., who can neither write nor read for themselves. The little ones come to us with very few words in their vocabulary, and with ideas lacking in clearness. We must first see to it that we enable them to use an increased number of words every day, and that the range of ideas not only becomes greater, but also that those ideas grow

clearer. They must be taught to use words accurately, and pronounce them exactly. It will at once be seen that the means to secure this end with infants is by TALKING. A teacher must be able to show a child how to use its speech organs properly, and a few minutes each day should be given to breathing exercises, and jingle and quick patter rhymes exercising the lips, tongue, etc. It is of the greatest importance that this work should always be done individually.

Literature for our tiny tots should consist of fairy tales and simple verse. The little poems taught should be short, bright, and written in such form as will appeal especially to the ear. So many poetical anthologies are published nowadays, that it is not at all difficult to find suitable poems for our infants. I might mention in passing that "A Child's Garden of Verse," Blake's "Songs of Innocence," and Part I. of "THE GOLDEN STAIRCASE" provide well for the needs of children in this section.

Turning to the fairy tales—in the very earliest stage the story must be *told* to the children, and so simply that the telling need not be interrupted by explanations and questions. Then, perhaps the next day, the children might have an opportunity to tell the same story again, a single child being encouraged to tell as much of the story as possible, to avoid breaking the continuity.

Another exercise which I found very helpful, in my short experience with the youngest children, was allowing them to dramatise the stories told. They never failed to appreciate the most familiar stories when they acted them out according to their own childish ideas.

As soon as the children are old enough, it is well to read to them the WRITTEN story because of its literary form, and in order that they may grow accustomed to good literary style from their early days. By reading interesting stories to our little ones, we are going the surest way to make them want to read for themselves, and overcome the drudgery of learning to read.

As we begin to consider the teaching of reading and writing, I think it will be well to refer to the Board of Education's issue

—SUGGESTIONS TO TEACHERS, where, under the teaching of English, we find the following :—

“ A facility in reading and writing should not be regarded as an end in itself the reality of the matter should be brought home to the child's mind, that writing is a means for fixing in intelligible language and character the passing thought ; that reading is a means of increasing the stock of words at command ; of acquiring new ideas about men and things in the present and the past, a resource for leisure, for illness, for old age, an essential not merely to success, but to pleasure and interest in life.”

In a paper like this, it is impossible to dwell on the teaching of BRAILLE as the particular form of reading used in our schools. Suffice it to say that because of the Braille system we are not burdened with having to choose an up-to-date method of teaching the rudiments of reading. For us there is but one way—the teaching of single letters, single words spelt out, and then the correct phrasing. Much time and care ought to be devoted to good phrasing, for unless children can phrase properly, it is useless to expect them to read with proper expression. When a child can phrase properly in Braille, then attention can be paid to elocution, modulation, and emphasis. Here, we are able to gain on the ordinary elementary school, for our children can have so much more practice in reading aloud, owing to the smaller classes, and it is only by constant reading aloud that perfection can be obtained. A short lesson each day is much more helpful than three long lessons a week, especially with younger children. In Grades I. to III. I think the books to be read should be chosen so that no undue time need be spent on the explanation of difficult subject matter. In these classes the great thing is to train the children to read aloud well, but if the subject matter is too difficult, they will be discouraged in trying to place the correct emphasis and to read with true expression. A plan which is very helpful with all ages of children to help to overcome mumbling and other like faults in reading, is to let one child read to the others while their books are closed. From the very earliest age it is possible to train

children to criticise, in a helpful manner, the reading of the other members of the class.

But while paying needful attention to reading from the elocutionary aspect, it is well to remind ourselves that the main purpose in teaching reading is to help our pupils to acquire the wish to read for themselves when they leave school and to understand what they read. Consequently, in the more advanced classes, e.g., Grades IV. and V., more and more time should be devoted to silent reading and to reading study. In the Grade V. Reading Class at Elm Court, which is at present reading the SENIOR TEMPLE READER, one lesson per week is spent by the girls in study, during which time they write down any words they do not understand, putting them in the phrases in which they find them in their lesson. These are asked at odd times two or three days before the second lesson, and the second lesson is not merely a time for reading aloud, but for discussion of subject matter read. I think we all know what an excellent help the library book is to our children, and what an incentive to learn to read well enough to be able to have one. A very good plan with juniors is to allow the best readers in turn to read aloud a Library book to the other children in some hand-work lesson.

Let us now turn to the Recitation Lesson, and here, again, we begin with juniors or those in our Grades I. to III. It cannot be emphasized too strongly that as soon as a child can read for itself it should be taught how to learn by heart a simple poem. Children should be encouraged to learn by heart out of school as early as possible, and as much as possible. A simple poem should be chosen, sometimes by the children themselves, and necessary explanations given, and then the words learnt absolutely correctly. By what method the child learns matters little, so long as the learning of the exact words is accomplished, and it is wrong to expect children to learn the words and to put in expression at the same time. We cannot attack the expression until the child knows the words so well that it is able to say them off without the least hesitation. Then comes the *difficult* work of the recitation lesson. To get the best

out of this lesson, the teacher must obtain as much individual expression as possible. The poet's descriptive words must be discussed so that their full value may be brought out in the expression; the pictures of the poem must be clearly seen by every child, so that they can be faithfully reproduced; the sounds of the poem must be listened to by the children carefully, and in turn given out by themselves. In no case does it seem justifiable for the teacher to read the poem for the purpose of showing children how to put in expression, and let them simply copy. To do so spells failure for the teacher. Simultaneous recitation (except for the purpose of saying over the words before the expression is attempted) is to be strongly deprecated. The recitation lesson ought to bring out as much individual effort as the reading lesson. The most successful recitation classes are taught, not necessarily by a teacher with dramatic manner, but by the teacher who is, first of all, a "seer" herself.

As for the kind of poem to be chosen, that depends a great deal on the age of the children. Purely descriptive poems ought not to be given to our juniors, but such poems as contain a story. It is well to teach poems especially suitable for boys to girls, at times, and vice versâ. I think a mixed class is much more helpful in recitation than one of only girls or only boys, as each helps the other in expression.

As the children grow older it is again beneficial to train them to criticise, for by so doing they learn how to overcome faults themselves. I don't think we need remind ourselves how helpful it is to let the children dramatise the poems, that is, to let different children take the different characters of the poem.

In the highest grades the recitation lesson can be made to include literature, when a deeper study of the poem or play can be made and the children can be helped in the working out of allusions, similes and metaphors; they can be trained to notice the appropriateness of the words and rhythm to the idea of the poem, and even taught a little scanning.

Simple prose should be learned by our elder children particularly, indeed they should be encouraged to commit to memory any strikingly beautiful passage.

If I have given undue time in this paper to recitation, I must ask your kind indulgence, for I hold that when a child begins to recite and drill well, there is hope for its future, no matter how unsatisfactory its past.

Now to turn to WRITING. Again, I shall not touch on the actual teaching of Braille writing, but on the writing lessons as used for the expression of thought. It is well to remember that Braille and spelling are not ends in themselves, but merely instruments of written expression. Transcription is of very little educational value in our schools; in fact, unless the piece to be copied consists of pure Braille to be turned into contracted Braille or vice versa; it will be better to leave transcription out of our Time Table.

Then, undue time should not be taken with spelling apart from writing, for spelling is never required unless we want to write; it is only necessary to be able to spell words we need to write. It is well to encourage the children to keep a spelling book of words they have collected themselves from their own oral or composition lessons. The dictation lesson should be based on groups of words suitable to the age of the children, and words such as they will be using in their composition lessons.

As soon as possible, composition should be attempted by the children. In the old days this was left until the children reached the age of 11 or 12, and then, oftener than not, took the form of reading out a story or anecdote by the teacher and its immediate reproduction by the children. This is almost useless as an exercise in style, as children generally have excellent memories and will often reproduce the passage, word for word. As an expert says, "Such work will never get beyond itself, will begin and end with the particular story set, whereas all true composition lessons ought to be fruitful, that is, ought to increase the POWER of expressing one's self on ANY TOPIC."

It is always well to deal with WHOLEs in a composition lesson, and if the subject is too big for one lesson, different children could write different paragraphs, and these be read to form one whole. The children should be trained to paragraph

properly, but it is not good to have the outline of the subject to be written discussed in class. A *similar* subject might be taken for discussion. We want to bring out individuality as much as possible, in our composition lessons. Perhaps, I can make this clearer with an example. A few weeks ago we had students at Elm Court for practice work in teaching. The composition for the week for the first class girls was "The Advantages and Disadvantages of Town Life." After the composition had been written and given in, I was talking to one of the girls, when she suddenly asked if I had corrected the compositions. I wondered at her anxiety about them, so asked why. She said she did not think I should be very interested in reading them, as they would all be the same, for they had been allowed to talk over the subject matter to the student in charge. And when I came to correct them, I found it so.

As for subjects to be given for composition, they are innumerable. The younger children can have their composition lessons connected with object lessons, history stories, scripture, and geography lessons. Imaginary stories can be written, based on one or two facts supplied by the teacher. But as much variety as possible should be allowed in the subjects, and the children should have much practice in writing each week. There is no royal road to the acquirement of a good style, but there is no reason why the majority of our children should not write in good form, for they have not had their imaginations dulled by too many concrete pictures and illustrations, and their hearing is keen to detect the best sounding words to use.

In the higher grades, when the style is more formed, the children can be trained to make their own books from the reproduction of the history and geography lessons given in school, and there is no need for me to point out the boon this becomes to our children when Braille books are so dear and so few. Almost all the oral lessons at Elm Court are reproduced and used as books of reference by the elder girls, the younger girls filing their written work when it is good enough to keep. Each paper is corrected before being filed, and this makes a good deal of correcting to be done by the teachers, but the

results are well worth the trouble. At the same time, the composition lesson is not merely a "reproduction of facts lesson," and, therefore, compositions involving the training of the imagination are also given. Some of the recent compositions given at Elm Court have been as follows:—

- Grade 2. Description of the Garden.
 The Lion.
 Answer to invitation to spend a day in the country.
 Letter to a friend describing the drill lessons.
- Grade 3. Heath plants.
 Florence Nightingale.
 Coal.
 Visit to a Norman Castle in the 11th Century.
- Grade 4. Paraphrase of "An Old Hunting Scene."
 A letter on the "Re-union."
 Vegetables.
 Autumn.
- Grade 5. Letter supposed to be written by John Alden of New England, 1621, describing the hardships endured by the Pilgrim Fathers, and sent by the "Mayflower."
 Original Story showing how the Young Mariner followed the Advice of Merlin. (The girls have been learning "Merlin and the Gleam.")
 Character Sketch of Sir Walter Raleigh.
 Description of a Fire at Sea.
 The putting into dramatic form the story of the finding of Guy Fawkes in the cellars under the Houses of Parliament.
 Description of any article made in hand-work lesson.

The subjects are usually given to the girls a week before hand, in the first class, and the time for writing is from half an hour to three-quarters.

Half an hour a week I have some girls from each class of the school, and give them a subject on which they are to write

a hundred words, not more. This is very helpful in obtaining concise expression.

As for correcting compositions, I find the best plan is to take in class one of the best and one of the worst, and go through all the faults, obtaining, where possible, correction from the class. The rest I take with the girls individually.

Time does not permit me to linger longer with this fascinating branch of our subject, and I must pass on to the teaching of GRAMMAR, so closely allied to composition, and here I cannot do better than quote from the Board of Education's Suggestions to Teachers. "The formal rules of Grammar need not find a place on the Time Table as a separate subject if correct speaking, reading and writing, are thoroughly taught.

Grammar should be regarded as entirely subsidiary to the main end of the English lesson as originally defined, but with this proviso, it may have quite a prominent place in the curriculum of the older children, even to the extent of appearing as a separate item on the Time Table. With the younger scholars, on the other hand, it should be discountenanced altogether.

It is impossible for a child to learn a language through its grammar, and this is more true of English than of most languages, for in English the meaning is for the most part determined by the relation of words to each other in the sentence, not by any change in their forms."

The SINGING lesson affords special opportunities for the teaching of English. The songs chosen can be used for reading and recitation lessons, while the exercises of the singing lesson should train the child to breathe properly, and to produce sounds accurately which will be just as valuable in speaking as singing. A child should be helped to produce as musical a speaking as singing voice.

In closing, we may, for our comfort, remind ourselves that we who teach blind children have at least one advantage over those who work in ordinary schools, in that we can, to a much greater extent, control the reading of our pupils, can see to it that in these days when all kinds of books are poured forth

indiscriminately, our children shall have only those things "that are lovely and of good report."

This short paper has attempted to deal with the possibilities which are offered to us through the teaching of English, but no one can be more conscious than the writer that the subject is so large, the issues so far-reaching, that only a few suggestions, the fruit of experience, can be offered. But as a Master Teacher has said :—

"To stand even on the outer edge of the magic circle, and merely know the existence of the kingdom within, lifts a man, even without any will of his own, into a different sphere."

And in closing, we may most fitly call to mind the words of that seeker after Truth and Beauty, Edmund Spenser, who says of the poets that "through the sweet bait of their numbers (they) steal into young spirits a desire of honour and virtue."

COLLEGE OF TEACHERS OF THE BLIND.

(Recognised by the Board of Education)

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the office of Gardner's Trust for the Blind on 17th March, 1911, at 5.30 p.m., when there were present—Sir Francis Campbell, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. W. H. Illingworth, B. P. Jones, Stuart Johnson, W. Littlewood, A. B. Norwood, H. W. P. Pine, W. M. Stone, Henry J. Wilson (Chairman), and Henry Stainsby (Hon. Registrar).

Apologies were received from Miss L. Douglas-Hamilton, Miss M. M. R. Garaway, Rev. T. Barnard, and Mr. H. M. Taylor.

The report and recommendations of the Board of Examiners relating to examinations abroad were submitted and discussed. The matter was referred back to the Board of Examiners to draft a syllabus and submit it to the Committee.

The Hon. Registrar submitted the following recommendations which were unanimously adopted at a joint meeting of representatives of the College of Teachers of the Blind and the

Joint Examination Board for Teachers of the Deaf, held at the office of the latter, 11, Fitzroy Square, W., on 17th March, 1911:—

1. That in view of the fact that there are computed to be not less than 50 blind-deaf children of school age in Great Britain who, by nature of their double affliction, are unsuited for the educational treatment provided in schools for either blind or deaf children, it is desirable that a special residential school should be established for them.
2. That in such special school the teacher employed should hold the dual qualification of teacher of the Blind and teacher of the Deaf.
3. That teachers desiring to become teachers of the Blind-Deaf should be advised to secure the certificates of the College of Teachers of the Blind, and of the Joint Examination Board for Teachers of the Deaf including finger-spelling and the making of manual signs; and that for this purpose the College of Teachers of the Blind should accept candidates who hold the Certificate of the Joint Examination Board for Teachers of the Deaf, and similarly the Joint Examination Board for Teachers of the Deaf should accept candidates holding the Certificate of the College of Teachers of the Blind.
4. That the Executive Committee of the respective Colleges represented be urged to press these resolutions to some practical issue.

It was moved by Mr. W. Littlewood, seconded by Mr. A. B. Norwood, and resolved "That a small Committee representing the College of Teachers of the Blind and the College of teachers of the Deaf be appointed to consider a scheme with the view to establishing a special school for Blind-Deaf children, and that the College of Teachers of the Blind be represented by Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mr. W. H. Illingworth, Mr. B. P. Jones, and Mr. Henry Stainsby."

The draft of the annual report was submitted, and, with slight alterations, approved.

A letter was read from the Board of Education with reference to the recognition by the Board, of the candidates who sat for the 1910 Examination.

The Hon. Registrar reported that the Examiners appointed for 1911 have been approved by the Board of Education, and that the London County Council had kindly given permission for the examination to be held this year at Linden Lodge.

The third Annual Meeting of the Council was held at the office of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., on 18th March, 1911, at 2.30 p.m., when the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Islington presided. There were present Sir Francis and Lady Campbell, Mrs. A. Greg, Mrs. H. E. Platt, Mrs. H. J. Wilson, Miss E. W. Austin, Miss E. M. Bainbrigg, Miss A. M. Harris Browne, Miss M. Everett and Miss Beatrice Taylor, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Rev. R. Hudson, Hon. A. M. Kinnaird, Dr. A. W. G. Ranger, Dr. Ridgway, Dr. Rosedale, Messrs. C. M. Collingwood, W. H. Dixon, W. H. Illingworth, Stuart Johnson, B. P. Jones, W. Littlewood, Thomas H. Martin, A. B. Norwood, H. E. Platt, H. W. P. Pine, W. M. Stone, W. H. Thurman, Henry J. Wilson, and Henry Stainsby.

The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Islington opened the meeting with Prayer.

The Hon. Registrar announced apologies from Miss L Douglas-Hamilton, Miss I. M. Heywood, Sir Matthew Dods-worth, Messrs. Joseph Hall, M. Priestley, Miss M. M. R. Garaway, Rev. T. Barnard, Messrs. Guy M. Campbell, W. P. Merrick, W. Robertson, and A. J. Story.

The Hon. Registrar read the Report and Financial Statements for the past year, when it was moved by the Chairman, seconded by the Rev. R. Hudson, Principal of St. Mark's College, Chelsea, supported by the Rev. St. Clare Hill, and resolved "That the Report and Financial Statements as read, be received, adopted, and entered on the Minutes, and that

copies be forwarded to the President, Vice-Presidents, Officers, Members, Subscribers, and other persons interested in the Education of the Blind."

It was moved by Sir Francis Campbell, seconded by Mr. Henry Stainsby, and resolved "That Miss Alice S. Armitage and the Right Hon. Lord Lamington be, and they are hereby appointed Vice-Presidents of the College."

It was moved by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. H. J. Wilson, and resolved "That Mrs. Wilton Phipps, Miss Laura Douglas-Hamilton, Rev. T. Barnard, Messrs. Stuart Johnson, Samuel Maddocks, and W. M. Stone be, and they are hereby re-elected Members of the Executive Committee."

It was moved by Mr. W. M. Stone, seconded by Mr. C. M. Collingwood, and resolved "That Mr. Henry J. Wilson, the Hon. Arthur M. Kinnaid, Dr. A. W. G. Ranger, Mr. Henry Stainsby, and Messrs. Drury, Thurgood, Hatfield and Co., be, and they are hereby re-appointed to the Honorary Offices of Chairman, Treasurer, Solicitor, Registrar, and Auditors, respectively for the current year."

It was moved by Mr. H. J. Wilson, seconded by Mr. H. Stainsby, and resolved "That Lady Campbell, Mr. H. W. P. Pine, Dr. A. W. G. Ranger, M.A., and Mr. H. M. Taylor, M.A., F.R.S., be, and they are hereby elected Fellows of the College."

The Chairman having enquired whether any duly nominated person was proposed for election, it was moved by the Rev. St. Clare Hill, seconded by Mr. Stuart Johnson, and resolved "That Major-General J. E. D. Hill, a Member of the Committee of the Royal School for the Indigent Blind be, and he is hereby elected a Member of the Council."

It was moved by Rev. St. Clare Hill, and seconded by Mr. W. H. Illingworth, and resolved "That one of the retiring Examiners be appointed Moderator, and shall be authorised to sit with the Examiners as Assessor," and it was further resolved "That Mr. A. B. Norwood, M.A., be, and he is hereby appointed Moderator."

It was moved by Mr. H. J. Wilson, seconded by Rev. St. Clare Hill, and resolved "That the best thanks of this Meeting be presented to the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Islington for his opening address and for his kindness in presiding at this Meeting, and to Rev. R. Hudson for his interesting and inspiring words in seconding the adoption of the Report."

The Report of the Committee for the year ending 31st December, 1910, states that "The Committee of the College have pleasure in submitting to the Council their Report for the past year—a record which demonstrates the value of the College in raising the standard of attainments of Teachers of the Blind and through them that of their pupils.

The Committee are pleased to announce that His Grace the Duke of Portland has kindly consented to become President of the College, and that Sir Oliver Lodge, F.R.S., has become a Vice-President.

In 1910, 37 candidates entered for the examination, of whom 10 had presented themselves at previous examinations. Seven of the candidates were blind.

Seventeen candidates, whose names were given in No. 52 of "The Blind," were awarded the Certificate of the College (6 males and 11 females), most of whom gained "Honours" in one or more subjects.

The Board of Examiners reported that, speaking in general terms, the standard of attainment both in compulsory and optional subjects was higher than at the previous examination, but several subjects, notably typewriting, were still weak.

The results of the Examination have been registered by the Board of Education, and each successful candidate has been informed of the Board's particular record in his or her case.

The Examiners elected for 1911 are:—Miss M. M. R. Garaway, Rev. St. Clare Hill, M.A., F.C.T.B., Mr. W. H. Illingworth, F.C.T.B., Mr. A. P. Pearson, B.A., and Mr. W. M. Stone, F.E.I.S. These appointments have received the approval of the Board of Education.

The Committee have decided that the College shall conduct Examinations abroad, inquiries having been received on this

matter. A Sub-Committee has been appointed to draft a scheme and submit it to the Committee.

In view of the fact that the Board of Examiners for 1908 and 1909 had called attention to the urgency of steps being taken to enable teachers of the Blind to become acquainted with the best methods of teaching, a Sub-Committee was appointed to consider this matter and report thereon. The result of the Sub-Committee's deliberations are contained in "suggestions" which after adoption were transmitted with a covering letter to the Schools for the Blind as a guide to the Managers, and were printed in No. 51 of "The Blind."

The Board of Examiners having reported that there was a "variety of opinions as to the correct and most expedient way of using the arithmetic peg," the British and Foreign Blind Association were asked to investigate the matter, with the object of bringing about a uniformity in the use of Taylor's Arithmetic Notation. The Council of the Association thereupon instituted inquiries among the schools for the Blind, and after careful consideration made certain modifications in the system as then published by them. The revised system was submitted to the Committee of the College and unanimously adopted. This revised system is published by the British and Foreign Blind Association and will, until further notice, be the only system recognised by the College.

EXETER CONFERENCE.

JULY 3RD TO 8TH.

A meeting of the General Committee was held at the Offices of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, on Saturday, March 18th, at 10.30 a.m., at which there were present—Mr. H. J. Wilson (Chairman), Miss E. W. Austin, Mr. J. Frew Bryden, Sir Francis J. Campbell, Mr. W. H. Dixon, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. Pine, Platt, Siddall, Stainsby, Stone, and Collingwood (Hon. Sec.).

Letters regretting inability to attend were received from Rev. N. F. McNeile, Miss E. Wright, and Mr. Munby.

A letter was read from Mr. A. W. Hendry (Manager of the Adelaide Institution for the Blind) expressing regret at his inability to attend the Conference, and to read a paper.

He added that he would be pleased to send an exhibit from his Institution to the Conference Exhibition.

Dr. Geo. Reid (M.O.H. to the Staffordshire County Council), has consented to read a paper on "Ophthalmia Neonatorum and its Administrative Control."

Mr. Alex. Mell, of Vienna, wrote suggesting that an evening, rather than a morning, session should be allocated to his lecture, as a darkened room would be required for his ski-optikon images. It was, therefore, agreed that a portion of the Wednesday evening should be given up to Mr. Mell's address.

The Chairman reported the receipt of a letter from Sir Robert Morant. K.C.B. (Secretary to the Board of Education) stating that he had been in communication with the Foreign Office in regard to the forthcoming Conference, and that he understood that the Foreign Office will instruct His Majesty's Representatives abroad.

He also intimated that although the Board had decided not to be officially represented at this Conference, he hoped one of the Inspectors would attend unofficially.

He further requested that the Board might be supplied with a copy of the Report of the proceedings of the Conference.

The Hon. Secretary reported the receipt of letters from Edinburgh and from Nottingham advocating quinquennial instead of triennial Conferences. The suggestion meeting with the general approval of the Committee it was decided to make such recommendation to the Conference, and that the next meeting of Conference be held in 1916, the venue being either London or Birmingham.

The Hon. Treasurer reported that in response to his Circular asking for subscriptions towards meeting the expenses of the forthcoming Conference, £101 had been received.

It was unanimously agreed :

(a) That "delegates" shall be nominees of Institutions and Societies for the Blind, who shall have subscribed not less than one guinea each, and that such Institutions shall be entitled to nominate 5 delegates each.

(b) That members shall be persons associated with work for the Blind, who shall have subscribed not less than 5/- each.

(c) That the term "delegates" shall be applied only to duly recognized representatives of Institutions and Societies for the Blind, and that only such "delegates" shall have voting powers.

(d) That all questions as to the eligibility of "delegates" or members shall be decided by the Conference Committee.

On behalf of the Concert Sub-Committee, Mr. Platt reported that considerable progress had already been made as regards the selection of artistes and the compilation of a programme. It was hoped that Herr Bellac (of Berlin), who was likely to attend the Conference, would play two foreign compositions.

Competent blind pianists, vocalists, and a violinist had been approached and tentatively engaged, and the Choir of the Exeter Institution for the Blind had undertaken to contribute some four-part songs.

The Sub-Committee further recommended that all composers who may be present at the Conference shall be asked to perform their own compositions, and also to accompany any of their vocal music that may be on the programme.

The following programme of arrangements for the Conference Week was submitted by the Honorary Secretary and approved by the Committee:—

SUNDAY, July 2nd.—In the morning Special Services in Churches and Chapels, conducted by Blind Clergy, and Blind Organists; and in the afternoon Special Service in Cathedral.

MONDAY, July 3rd.—Opening of Exhibition at noon, and in the afternoon "Libraries for the Blind," by Miss E. W. Austin.

TUESDAY, July 4th.—In the morning "Teachers of the Blind," &c., by Rev. St. Clare Hill; and in the afternoon "Musical Education of the Blind," by Mr. H. C. Warrilow, F.R.C.O.

WEDNESDAY, July 5th.—In the morning and afternoon "After-care, and the Better and More General Employment of the Blind," by Mr. Henry Stainsby.

THURSDAY, July 6th.—In the morning "Training in the Requirements of Social Life," by Lady Campbell; and in the afternoon Special Session to receive Committee Reports, elect Committees, &c.

FRIDAY, July 7th.—In the morning "The General Pensioning of the Blind," &c., by Mr. Alrik Lundberg (Stockholm); and in the afternoon "Ophthalmia Neonatorum and its Administrative Control," by Dr. Geo. Reid, M.D., D.P.H.

SATURDAY, July 8th.—Excursion to Totnes by rail, by steamer down the Dart to Dartmouth, by rail to Torquay and Exeter.

The following programme was also submitted and approved for the several evenings of Conference Week :—

MONDAY.—Mayoral Reception.

TUESDAY.—Concert by Blind Artistes.

WEDNESDAY.—Herr A. Mell's address on "The Physiognomy of the Blind" (with ski-optikon images).

THURSDAY.—Lecture by Mr. H. C. Preece (Blind Lecturer).

FRIDAY.—Informal Discussion.

A letter received from the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, with respect to reporting the proceedings of the Conference, was considered, and Mr. Myers (blind) was appointed official stenographer for the Conference.

It was further decided that both printed and Braille copies of the "papers" to be read should be prepared and circulated amongst the delegates and members on the evenings preceding their discussion, and the compilers were accordingly requested to forward their papers to the Hon. Secretary before the end of May.

Mr. Stainsby, Mr. Stone, and Mr. Illingworth, on behalf of their respective Institutions, kindly undertook to furnish between them the necessary Braille copies.

The Hon. Secretary reported that he was endeavouring to make a special feature of the morning services at the various Churches on July 2nd (the Sunday preceding the Conference), and for that purpose was desirous that such services should, if possible, be conducted by Blind Clergy and Blind Organists in all the 22 Churches and 17 Chapels in Exeter.

A circular letter had been issued to all known Clergy and Organists with a view to securing their co-operation and attendance.

By the courtesy of the Town Clerk of Exeter, 250 copies of a comprehensive and handsomely illustrated guide to Exeter have been provided for the use of representatives attending the Conference

A further meeting of the Conference Committee to make final arrangements will be held in London on Saturday, May 27th.

The various Railway Companies will issue "privilege tickets" at a fare and a quarter to representatives, and the local Committee are negotiating for special terms with the local hotels and boarding-houses.

A complete circular of the proceedings during Conference Week will be issued shortly.

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All communications for the next number must be sent on or before September 18th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. In consequence of the Exeter Conference having been held so near the time when "The Blind" is issued, it was decided to defer the account of it until the next number. But Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Wilson feel that they can lose no time in thanking the many kind friends who presented them with the magnificent gift of a massive silver tray, teapot and cheque. Although public expression of their thanks was given to the Conference at the time of presentation, they wish to repeat it here, many of their friends having been unavoidably absent on the occasion. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson are quite unable to express how deeply they have been moved by the great kindness and affection so unstintedly shown them, and beg all their kind friends to accept their warmest and most sincere thanks, with the assurance that they will never forget this most touching proof of friendship given them during the pleasant time spent at Exeter.

2. The January number of "The Blind" has been out of print some time, as there was an unusual demand for copies. Can any of our readers spare two copies for Mr. H. V.

Niederhäusern, as he requires them to complete his sets? If so, kindly address to him direct at 4 and 5, Howard Street, North Shields.

3. The following Music Students at Henshaw's Blind Asylum (the eldest of whom is not yet 20), have recently been successful in obtaining posts as organists. George Hilditch, at St. Aiden's Church, Openshaw; Thomas Platt, St. Peter's Church, Stretford; and Frederick Andrews, St. Mark's Church, Hulme. All three were successful in their first attempt to pass the Matriculation Examination for the Faculty of Music at Durham University two years ago, and are going up for their first Mus. Bac. Examination in September next. We congratulate Mr. I. Davidson, the Senior Music Master of Henshaw's Asylum, on such an excellent result of his painstaking and skilful training.

4. A meeting of the Conference Committee was held in London on May 27th, when there were present—Miss Austin, Miss Wright, Sir F. J. Campbell, Messrs. Collingwood, Dixon, Pine, Platt, Stainsby, and Wilson in the Chair.

Letters regretting their inability to attend were read from Rev. St. Clare Hill, Rev. N. F. McNeile, and Mr. Stone.

Considerable correspondence on various subjects was read and attended to, including a letter from Mr. Mell, of Vienna, regretting his inability to be present at the Conference and deliver his lecture owing to ill-health.

The report of the Concert Sub-Committee was given, and considered very satisfactory, and the Hon. Sec. gave reports on the local arrangements. An Advisory Committee to act during the Conference was appointed, consisting of Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. Collingwood, Pine, Stainsby and Wilson, and Miss Austen, Miss Wright, Mr. Guy Campbell, and Mr. Stone were elected to act as stewards with power to add to their number.

All final arrangements were made for the Conference, as it was decided that it was unnecessary to hold another meeting of the General Committee.

5. A quiet, but none the less very important and laborious, work has been and is being carried on by Mr. H. M. Taylor, F.R.S., Hon. Sec. of the Embossed Scientific Books Fund, formed with the object of assisting in the publication, in embossed type for the use of the Blind, of works of a scientific nature which are at present not obtainable, and of reducing the price at which the books are sold where such reduction seems advisable. The scheme was introduced to the favourable consideration of the Royal Society by Lord Rayleigh in his Presidential Address to the Society on November 30th, 1907. It has since been brought to the notice of the resident senior members of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The fund is under the control of a board of five managers nominated by the President of the Royal Society. The following books have been published in connection with the fund :—

Sound and Music, by Mr. Sedley Taylor.

Primer of Astronomy, by Sir Robert Ball.

Introduction to Geology, by Dr. J. E. Marr.

Elements of Plane Trigonometry, by Dr. R. Lachlan and W. C. Fletcher.

Zoology (Manuals of Elementary Science), by the late Professor A. Newton.

The following books are partly published :—

Modern Chemistry, Theoretical, by Sir W. Ramsay.

Mechanics, by Mr. W. D. Eggar.

Electricity and Magnetism, by Mr. C. E. Ashford.

Physiology for Beginners, by Sir M. Foster and Dr. L. E. Shore.

And the following books are in preparation :—

Heat, by Dr. R. T. Glazebrook.

Coming of Evolution, by Dr. J. W. Judd.

The thanks of the "Blind" world are due to Mr. Taylor for his untiring and painstaking efforts on their behalf. Books of this kind have never previously been available for blind readers.

6. We quote the following from the "Liverpool Courier" of May 9th: "A small deputation representing the Blind of Liverpool and district waited upon Miss M. L. Hornby, yesterday, to present an illuminated address and a gold fountain pen, to testify their gratitude for the manifold ways in which she had helped the Blind. Mr. J. H. Mines made the presentation, and one of the children from the Wavertree School for the Blind very prettily presented a beautiful bouquet of red tulips and white sweet peas. Miss Hornby, in response, expressed the great pleasure her work for the Blind had always given her, and said she was much gratified to receive such tokens of their appreciation. After the presentation the deputation were entertained to tea. The address was signed by representatives of the Workshop for the Blind, the Home Teaching Society, the School for the Indigent Blind (Hardman-street), the Catholic Blind Asylum, and the Wavertree School for Blind Children."

7. As a result of the Examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind held on May 30th and 31st and June 1st, at Linden Lodge, London County Council School for the Blind, Wandsworth Common, S.W., the following have obtained Certificates. The subjects in which "Honours" have been taken are indicated :—

Balls, May L. Honours—Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Arithmetic, Practical Teaching, Hand Knitting.

Chapple, Alfred G. Honours—Practical Braille, Arithmetic.

Creed, Mabel. Honours—Arithmetic, Hand Knitting.

Dyson, Marian. Honours—Theoretical Braille, Arithmetic, Kindergarten, Physical Training, and Recreation for the Blind.

Fairclough, Paul.

Falconer, Jessie. Honours—Arithmetic, Practical Teaching, Chair Caning.

Gardner, Mary E. Honours—Arithmetic, Practical Teaching.

- Laing, Reginald E. Honours—Arithmetic, Typewriting, History of the Education of the Blind.
- Marland, Frances E. Honours—Practical Braille, Arithmetic.
- Moorby, Annie F. Honours—Arithmetic, Practical Teaching, Chair Caning.
- Northcombe, Douglas W.
- Page, Sydney Katharine. Honours—Hand Knitting.
- Potter, Winifred A. Honours—Arithmetic, History of the Education of the Blind.
- Radford, Gertrude E. M. Honours—Beadwork and Clay Modelling.
- Ridley, Ethel M. Honours—Arithmetic, Practical Teaching, Machine Knitting.
- Robb, Patrick. Honours—Theoretical Braille, Practical Teaching.
- Samuels, Maude. Honours—Arithmetic, Beadwork, and Clay Modelling.
- Shepherd, Annie G. Honours—Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Arithmetic, History of the Education of the Blind.
- Smith, Clara E. C. Honours—Chair Caning.
- Walker, Jean M. Honours—Arithmetic.
- Wigg, Lily R. Honours—Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Arithmetic, Practical Teaching.
- Wilburn, Caroline. Honours—Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Braille Music.
- Wright, Emily. Honours—Practical Teaching, Hand Knitting.
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8. It is with pleasure we record the handsome gift to Henshaw's Blind Asylum of the Mary Ann Scott Home and Workshops for the Blind at Hayesleigh, Old Trafford. This commodious house with beautiful grounds is to be used as a residence for the elder inmates and workers. The land was originally purchased and presented to the Asylum by Mr. C. H. Scott (one of the Board of Management) as a site for the then projected Residential School, but that scheme having been abandoned, Mr. Scott has

very generously had the whole house re-constructed, a new wing added, extensive workshops built, and the grounds beautifully laid out, and has presented this to the Board of Management as a Memorial to his late wife. Henshaw's Blind Asylum may now be considered an example of what a complete Institution for the Blind should include, namely:—(1) Residential School for Juveniles; (2) Residential School for Technical Education; (3) Workshops for Journeymen and Journeywomen living at their own homes; (4) Home or Asylum for aged and infirm blind people; and (5) Out-door allowances for the aged or infirm Blind living at their own homes.

The number of Blind, educated and cared for under the above heads approaches nearly 400.

9. At the Annual Meeting of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, held on February 24th, the Chairman (Alderman J. Royle) remarked: With reference to the amount shown in the balance-sheet which is termed loss on workshops, that it is desirable to point out and to emphasize the fact that it is not really "loss" but is as a matter of fact better termed, amount expended in providing work for the Blind, over and above the commercial value of such work.

It is generally accepted by employers of blind labour, that the average earning capacity of the capable blind adult is not more than 10/- per week, though in many Institutions and workshops the average amount paid is 15/- or over.

In our own workshops here the latter amount is about the average paid. Now many people find it difficult to understand how, where the workers are employed on piece work, and the goods sold anywhere near ordinary prices, we should have a serious balance on the wrong side. A moment's consideration, however, of the special circumstances of the case will solve the problem.

We pay our blind workmen the ordinary Trades Union rate of wages paid to sighted workers engaged on similar work, but in addition to this we have to keep four or five sighted men on fixed wages constantly employed preparing the material for

the blind basket makers, and two or three more skilled basket makers, fitters, &c., finishing their work after it leaves the blind workers' hands before it is ready for the market. Much, if not all of this work, in a sighted shop would be done by the ordinary workman. Such charges on our Deansgate establishment amount to between £400 and £500 per annum—practically dead charges. Some workshops for the Blind show a better balance on their working, by the employment of a large number of sighted workers, thus enabling the employers to obtain a better class of work producing a greater margin of profit.

In Brush-making again, we pay our workers the full amount required by the Union for every brush filled, whereas in a sighted shop so much is deducted from the workers' wages for the boring of the stocks, &c.

Again, in every department, the waste in a workshop for the Blind is greatly in excess of a factory where sighted hands are employed. As a rule this waste may safely be estimated at full one-third more. This in itself is a serious item. We do not blame the Blind for this altogether. If they could do everything to the same advantage as the seeing, then surely it would be tantamount to saying that sight is of no use.

Another phase of the question not considered by the public, and I fear not sufficiently appreciated by the Blind themselves, is this important fact, and I wish to emphasize it fully—that be trade good or bad we keep all our workers fully employed—whilst for all enforced holidays, Whit week, Christmas Day, &c., we pay a fixed sum of 2/6 per day, and this with the natural result that in times of dull trade, and last year was the worst on record—we accumulate large quantities of stock, which we are compelled to sell at reduced prices to make room for more.

As the Auditors will testify from this cause alone we lost—I use this word in its commercial sense only—last year some hundreds of pounds.

These facts bear out the statement with which I commenced, that the £1,200 deficit, or at any rate the greater part of it, represents the amount paid to the Blind in excess of the commercial value of their work.

Some foolish people have been heard to express the opinion that it would be better to give away this sum of money in weekly doles to the Blind, and allow them to live in peace at their own firesides. I put it to you and all right thinking people. Is it better to give rational healthy employment to our able-bodied blind people at an average wage of 15/- or more per week, or to allow them to live in idleness with all its attendant demoralizing influences, of which pauperisation would be the least, on doles of 7/- or 8/- per week? There can surely be only one answer to this question, and the great majority of our blind workers I am glad to say, would be the last to accept the latter alternative. I do not believe that in the whole blind community there can be found a more intelligent, industrious, or common-sense lot of workers than we have in our employees—a dozen at least of whom receive in wages an average of over £1 per week.

THE UNIONS OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

The Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union. A meeting of the Executive Committee was held on the 1st April, when there were present—Mr. Wilson in the Chair, Miss A. M. Harris Browne, Miss M. G. Burnett, Sir Francis Campbell, Miss P. Charnock, Mrs. Goodhart, Mr. Stuart Johnson, Mr. W. Lempriere, Miss Moon, Mr. H. Stainsby, Miss Taylor, Miss Wheeler, Mr. Guy Campbell, Hon. Sec., and Miss Bennett, Org. Sec.

On behalf of the Committee Mr. Wilson heartily welcomed Mrs. Goodhart, Miss Harris Browne, Miss Burnett, Miss Charnock, and Miss Wheeler, the five new members of the Committee.

Regrets for inability to attend the meeting were reported on behalf of Mrs. Inglis and Miss Bainbrigge.

Letters were read as to the cost of preparing a block map of the area of the Union to be issued in the forthcoming Report. It was agreed that the tender of Messrs. Stanford be accepted.

The Chairman reported that he attended a meeting at Bromley on the 20th March, and that the local newspaper fully

reported his speech. He hoped it would do much towards helping on the work of the Blind in the district.

Lady Campbell reported that she had been to Stepney and addressed a Mother's Meeting on the matter of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, and kindred subjects. She had a very excellent reception, and hoped that she had succeeded in interesting the meeting.

The Org. Sec. reported that during the past month—

(a) Mr. Johnson had kindly had special note-paper printed for the use of each Borough Representative.

(b) Five pensions of £10 a year each had been obtained for cases taken up and befriended by the Union.

(c) A lady had generously offered to assist by doing type-writing gratis.

(d) Thirty-two tickets in connection with the Ticket Bureau had been issued.

(e) Thirty cases had been dealt with since the last meeting, several of them having been sent from St. Thomas's Hospital.

The Chairman reported that Mrs. Kepple Taylor had kindly provided a card plate and 200 cards with Miss Bennett's name and official address on them, and a cordial vote of thanks was moved and agreed to.

The Chairman reported that the Draft Constitution kindly drawn up by Dr. Ranger ought to be very carefully revised, and he, therefore, asked that a special Sub-Committee be appointed to go through the same and report. The Sub-Committee appointed were—Miss Taylor, the Chairman, Mr. Stainsby, the Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary.

A meeting of the Executive Committee was held on 6th May, when there were present—Mr. Wilson in the Chair, Miss Bainbrigge, Miss Burnett, Miss Charnock, Miss Moon, Miss Taylor, Miss Wheeler, Sir John Brickwood, Sir Francis Campbell, Mr. Stainsby, Mr. Guy Campbell, and Miss Bennett, Org. Sec.

Regrets for inability to attend the meeting were reported on behalf of Mrs. Goodhart, Miss Harris Browne, and Mr. Stuart Johnson.

It was reported that Mrs. Chapman had consented to act as representative for the Clapham division of Wandsworth, Miss L. Coningham for South Paddington, and the Misses Stewart for the Nine Elms division of Battersea.

The Org. Sec. reported—(a) That 119 tickets had been sent out from the Ticket Bureau since the last meeting.

(b) Thirty-six cases had been dealt with during the month.

A letter from Miss Austin as to Mutual Registration was submitted and read, and it was agreed that the question should be brought forward at the June meeting.

The Chairman reported that arrangements had been made for holding a meeting on May the 19th, at the Deanery, Ely, with the hope of starting the Eastern Union, and that Miss Taylor and he had promised to speak.

North of England Union. The Annual Meeting was held at Bradford on May 1st, when there were present—the Vicar of Bradford in the Chair, Miss I. M. Heywood (Manchester), Mr. Munby and Mr. Norwood (both of York), Miss Halliday and Lt.-Col. Jolly (both of Preston), Miss Sadgrove, Org. Sec. (Beverley), Dr. Hartley and Mr. Meeson (both of Leeds), Mr. Littlewood (Liverpool), Mr. Johnson (Accrington), Councillor Barker and Mr. Illingworth (both of Henshaw's Blind Asylum), Mr. Buchanan (Oldham), Mr. Siddall (Rochdale), Mr. Day (Blackburn), Mrs. Shepherd (Bacup), Miss Kemp (Rochdale), Mr. Priestman, Mr. Tate, and Mr. Priestley (all of Bradford), Miss A. Varty-Smith (Penrith), Mrs. Turner-Hartley (Colne), Mrs. Carr (Wakefield), Mr. Hodgson (Halifax), and others.

The Chairman welcomed the delegates to Bradford, and remarked that a jubilee was not merely a time for looking back, but preeminently a time for looking forward and for wondering what the next part of the journey had in store. The report of the Committee and the statement of accounts were read by Miss Heywood. Hon. Sec., and Miss Sadgrove, Org. Sec., also read her report. The adoption of the report was moved by Mr. Munby, who expressed the pleasure to the Union by the invitation to Bradford on the occasion of the jubilee. Mr. Tate

seconded the adoption, and referred to the Union getting into touch with the Blind and helping individuals in a wise and understanding way. He also referred to the exhibition of work done by the Blind which demonstrated that when thoroughly trained they were capable of producing many kinds of beautiful and useful work. The following resolution was moved by Mr. Pine, seconded by Mr. Norwood, and carried: "The objects of the Union will best be served by a wider realization of individual responsibility for the welfare of the Blind on the part of their sighted neighbours." The report of the Committee refers to Miss Sadgrove's appointment as Org. Sec., and to the energetic and able manner in which she has taken up the work so excellently begun by Miss Wright. There have been meetings of the General Committee at Leeds, Bolton, Middlesborough, and Bradford. Miss Sadgrove's report is very interesting, and shows the work of the Union in detail. Reports are also given by the Hon. Secs. of Visiting Societies affiliated to the Union. A Blind Visiting Society has been formed in Middlesborough, and the members of the Girls' Diocesan Guild have undertaken to visit the Blind in Durham City. Friends willing to act on behalf of the Blind have been found for Rotherham, Consett, Barnard Castle, Stockton-on-Tees, and Coatham, where there are no Societies at work. A list is given of the visits paid by the Org. Sec., and also of the meetings addressed by her. Reference is made to 51 cases that have been helped by the Union in one way or another.

North West Union. The 2nd Annual Meeting of this Union was held at Macclesfield on October 12th, when the Archdeacon of Chester presided, and the annual report and financial statement were adopted on the motion of the Chairman. The report shows much progress during the year. Notices were issued in regard to making ophthalmia of the newborn a notifiable disease to all the Medical Officers of Health in the Union, and Chester and Macclesfield promptly adopted the proposal. A circulating library for the Union was started on July 1st, 1910, and books were sent to the Home Teaching

Societies at Bangor, Chester, Shrewsbury, and Macclesfield, and to the Institution at Stockport. The Birkenhead Society now belongs to the North of England Union, and the Stockport and District Society to the North West Union. The returns of the Blind show an increase of 150. The report contains a map showing the area of the Union and the principal places visited by the Home Teaching Societies. The Hon. Sec. is Miss Margaret Comber, Woodville, Liverpool Road, Chester.

“LIGHT THROUGH WORK.”

BLIND WORKERS' EXHIBITION.

A very important Meeting was held at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, on April 26th, in connection with the New York Association for the Blind, of which Miss Winifred Holt is the able and zealous Secretary. An excellent and interesting handbook was printed in connection with the exhibition which seems to have been an unqualified success. The exhibition interested the public as nothing else could have done, and gave an object lesson of the needs and capacities of the Blind which must result in great good. We print the following abstract of speeches, and regret that there is not sufficient space to print all the speeches in their entirety.

Hon. Joseph H. Choate, Chairman, said :

The Association under whose auspices this splendid exhibition is held, was organized in November, 1905, with a capital of four hundred dollars, and now this grand exhibition, welcomed by this magnificent audience, after a brief space of five years, testifies to what good and great work the Association has accomplished.

That such great things could come from such small beginnings is due to a certain concentration of human energy which has seldom been surpassed. It is all embodied, concentrated in one human form, an embodiment, I might call it of human radium whose energy is absolutely inexhaustible ; and you all know to whom I refer when I mention Miss Winifred Holt.

It is just about five years ago to-night since I assisted the lamented Mark Twain in conducting the first public meeting of this Association. We all mourn for that great and good man; that honourable and warm heart of his responded to every human call, and he was especially interested in the Blind among his countrymen, and every blind man and every blind woman and every blind child must certainly count themselves among the mourners for his loss.

A great work had to be accomplished when this Association was organized which Miss Helen Keller has well called the new era in the history of the Blind. Up to that time, or nearly up to that time, it was generally thought that Society had done its duty by its Blind when it provided for them an asylum, a shelter, a home, food, and the elements of an education. But just imagine Helen Keller for instance, immured in an asylum! Work is what the Blind want.

On my first visit to England something like thirty-two years ago, it was my great pleasure to see the then Postmaster-General of England, a member of the Cabinet, one of the foremost intellectual lights of England, one of her great statesmen, Mr. Henry Fawcett, who had lost his sight, the sight of both eyes, suddenly, by an unhappy accident in the hunting field, and the words that he uttered immediately after he came to his senses are a clarion call for all blind men, for all those who are stricken with blindness after they come to years of maturity. What he said was, "This accident shall make no difference to my career. My activities shall continue on the same lines and with the same vigour as they have always been." And from that day on he fought his way to the front, he established his claim to be called one of the leading men of England, in spite of his blindness, by simply the exertion of his own courage and hope.

Faith, hope and charity—charity, not in the sense of giving money, but of that human love which binds every man to his fellow man, or ought to do so—are the three elements which are required for the success of every movement for the advancement of the Blind.

We must have absolute faith in the possibilities of what the

Blind can accomplish. That is what the managers of this Society have had from the beginning. The Blind themselves must always hope, never give way to despair, never allow the darkness that overwhelms them to produce despondency; and then the charity of good will, of co-operation, of human love must come from the rest of the community whose bounden duty it is to see that all efforts like this are made successful.

The exhibit which you will see here this present week demonstrates what has already been accomplished, but it also demonstrates the immenseness of the possibilities for future usefulness which have been begotten by this very success.

This is by no means a local occasion. It is a state and national occasion. We are honoured here to-night with the presence of the Governor of the State of New York and the President of the United States. It is certainly true that the care and education of the Blind is a subject of vast public interest both to the City, the State and the Nation.

When this Association was formed, although much good had been done by many benevolent people for the Blind, it was not even known how many blind people there were in New York. There was a guess that there might be a thousand. But the first thing that this Association did was to have a census taken under State authority, and it resulted in discovering that there were 7,000 at least in the State and about 2,300 in Greater New York.

How many blind people do you suppose there are in the United States of America, according to the last census to which I had access? Why, there are 85,000! about one, out of every thousand men, women and children in the whole nation.

So that when the President comes here, he comes here rightly, representing a great National cause. When the Governor comes here he comes here rightly representing a great State cause. It is a shame to the great State of New York; it is a shame to the rich City of New York that their Lighthouse should be cramped up in a little building seventeen feet wide. Why, they require for the proper development of their work a building seventy feet wide, something which shall attract the attention and admiration of all passers by.

I have now the very great honour of presenting to you the one man whom you have all come here to-night to hear, the man who has very great duties at Washington, but nothing more sacred than this cause of Humanity which he represents here to-night, and which he comes here to honour.

We are grateful to him for many things that he has done and is now doing.

But to-night we welcome him, not on any political grounds not on any great questions of public interest, except that he comes to-night, the friend of humanity, the friend, the supporter, the advocate of the Blind, and I have the great honour to present to you the President of the United States.

President Taft said :—

I am glad to be present to-night and lend my voice in aid of and in praise of the work which has been done for the last four years under the auspices of the New York Association for the Blind. The loss of that sense which enables us to see, to write, to read, to walk, to rejoice in the rising sun and marvel in the beauty of the setting sun, to know day from night, to look into the universe of countless worlds, is a deprivation, the very thought of which melts our hearts and brings tears to our eyes for those thus afflicted. Without thought, we class them all among the helpless and necessary objects of charity. We segregate them from the world at large, we put them in expensive asylums, we furnish them with food and clothing, and then, with a sigh, we consign them to a life of hibernation, of deadening monotony, of helpless and aimless existence in a windowless tomb.

I understand the object of this Association to be to introduce light into the lives of the Blind by work, to give them happiness by manual and intellectual activity, to maintain their independence and self respect by enabling them to contribute to their own support, and to enable them to forget their affliction by association, and by sharing their thoughts and interests with those who see.

In the first place, this Association has directed its attention to the prevention of blindness. The statistics seem to show that

from twenty-five per cent. to fifty per cent. of the present blindness is preventable ; that infantile ophthalmia, which ensues on the birth of the child, may be completely cured by the administration of a very simple remedy. The successful efforts of this Association to improve the midwifery and to provide this specific remedy at the time of the birth of children is most highly to be commended. Then the kindergarten for the Blind should be encouraged. This co-operates with the Association, rescues the blind children under school age from imbecile and idiot asylums, and gives them opportunity to show that their minds are not defective, and thus saves a number who would otherwise be helplessly deficient, to become fully developed by the influences of primary and secondary education. Then comes the education of the Blind. Through the good offices of this Association, New York City has now assumed an obligation to give to the blind children the benefit of public instruction, and the fact that they are constantly with children who see—study with them and play with them—gives to the blind boys and girls a share in the common life of all the children that seems to soften the asperity of their lot.

The present is a period for establishing vocational schools. The movement towards preparing boys and girls for life's work in connection with their primary and secondary education, so that they may have some trade or business or occupation taught them in boyhood as a part of and in connection with their general education, has become stronger and stronger of late and must be regarded as one of the most progressive steps of the present decade.

The New York Association for the Blind has promoted the teaching of trades and occupations for which the Blind are best adapted ; but beyond this at least half of those who become blind after birth become blind as adults, after they have learned their trades or studied their professions, and must be fitted to adopt some new calling in life which can be prosecuted without the use of eyes. It is to these unfortunates that the New York Association for the Blind has devoted its most earnest and helpful consideration. It has shown by this distinct service that it is

possible to teach those who have lost their sight even after middle age, to work with their hands, and with their minds in unison with their hands, so that the work done shall let light into their souls and happiness into their lives.

Most of the public Institutions which we know—and there are some forty in the various States—are devoted to giving education to those of school age who have lost their sight. The work of assisting to possible occupations in life those who, after middle life, have lost their sight, is confined, so far as I know, to the New York Association for the Blind, and to similar associations established under its influence.

There are in New York to-day 2,300 blind persons, or one to every thousand of the population. This ought to be greatly reduced by enforcing the proper method of treatment for infantile ophthalmia. Of the remainder, those of school age should be properly taught in the public schools. By increase in the power and scope of this New York Association for the Blind all that are left of those 2,300, to wit, the adults upon whom blindness has fallen after they have attained manhood or womanhood, should be enabled to live happier lives by a training in mental and physical work which will occupy their minds, stimulate their energies, and relieve them as much as possible of that sense of dependence, helplessness and hopelessness which makes their lives dismal and unendurable.

All honour, then, to the Holt sisters, who had so much to do with the founding of this Association, and have brought it forward in four years to its present state of usefulness.

The Chairman said that it was hoped that the most distinguished blind man in the United States, Senator Gore, who, in spite of his infirmity, has worked his way to the front and gained a seat in the United States Senate, which he fills with great honour and dignity, would have attended, but unfortunately, at the last moment he found himself unable to be present. He, however, wrote a letter very appreciative of the work of the Association, and it was read at the Meeting. A very interesting and characteristic letter from Miss Helen Keller was also read. We hope, if possible, to print it in *extenso* in our next number. Miss Winifred Holt also spoke.

RECREATIONS FOR THE BLIND.

By Mr. E. Evans.

Assistant Master in the London County Council Residential and Day School for the Blind, Linden Lodge, Wandsworth Common, S.W.

This scheme of Recreations is intended for a school of boys whose ages range from 12 to 16 years. For the purposes of reference the recreations are classified, but it is not intended that the classification should be anything but arbitrary, and many games might very well be placed in two or even more of the sections.

1. Outdoor sports and games requiring no special apparatus.
2. Outdoor sports requiring special places and apparatus.
3. Outdoor recreations.
4. Indoor sports requiring apparatus.
5. Indoor recreations, educational in character.
6. Indoor games requiring two or more players in which the competition element is the great factor.
7. Indoor games requiring many players, *i.e.*, Parlour games.
8. Miscellaneous amusements.

SECTION I.

Outdoor sports and games without special apparatus.

1. **RUNNING.**—The Blind take a keen delight in racing on the flat. Each competitor should be provided with a ring running on his own string for guiding purposes.

2. **WALKING.**—This should take place on a wide path, to which the walkers are well used. It is advisable to split the competitors up and run the race in heats when the number of entrants is more than four or five, but much will depend on the handicapping and the space at disposal.

3. **LONG JUMPING.**—This may be done from a run or a standing jump. If a run is taken, the jumper should walk backwards twice as many steps as he intends to run. Six steps back is plenty for the average boy.

4. **HIGH JUMPING.**—This, in its various branches, is a

most interesting pastime. The Blind are quite able to take a running high jump by taking the run in the same manner as in the long jump. Additional interest is given if the jumper makes turns before alighting, so as to face the front, right or left, when he comes to his feet. Blind persons have been known to clear 5ft. 2in.

5. **WRESTLING.**—This is a favourite exercise among the Blind. A large carpet should be provided, and the usual rule adhered to. With younger boys it is unwise to allow a bout to last more than a few minutes, and weak or sickly boys had better leave it until they have grown stronger.

6. **COCKFIGHTING.**—There are a number of varieties of this game. One which causes a great deal of amusement is played by two players sitting facing each other on a board or mat (2ft.—3ft. wide) having a broomstick or yardstick under the knees and the hands locked over the shins. The player who first tips the other up without unlocking his fingers, and without losing his own balance wins the point. This game might easily be played in the gymnasium.

7. **OBSTACLE RACING.**—When this game is played it will generally be found necessary to conduct the Blind boys over the course, explaining the obstacles.

8. **THREE-LEGGED RACING.**—This is the ordinary game where the adjacent legs of the two runners are tied. It is best played by a sighted and blind boy.

The game can also be played by including more runners.

9. **WHEELBARROW RACING.**—This is played by two boys, one walking on his hands while the other holds his legs. When half the race is over the runners change positions.

10. **TUG OF WAR.**—This is the ordinary game, and the conditions are practically the same as for the sighted. A captain should be chosen for each side, and his orders strictly obeyed.

11. **SKIPPING.**—The many forms of skipping make many good exercises. They can always be played either by each boy having a separate rope or by others turning, and the skipper running in. The skipper should run in sideways from the

turner, and can judge the turn by following the turner's hand with his own.

12. **SKIPPING RACES.**—These are rather difficult to manage successfully, and should be run in a wide flat space. The number of racers should be restricted to three.

13. **HIDE AND SEEK.**—This should be played in a place which the boys know well.

14. **COASTING OR SLEDGING.**—This is a form of tobogganning, and a slope is necessary, down which it is possible to send a box fitted with runners.

15. **FOLLOW MY LEADER.**—Very similar to the sighted game of the same name, except that sufficient explanation must be given in words of the items to be imitated.

16. **PRISONERS BASE.**—This game can be played by the Blind, when assisted by partially sighted boys. The same rules apply as in the sighted game.

17. **ROBBERS AND THIEVES.**—A game similar to hide and seek, except that the seekers are equal or nearly equal in numbers to the side that is being sought. The "thieves" hide and are caught. When they are all brought back to the base the sides are changed.

18. **CHAIN TOUCH.**—It is the object of one boy to touch the others. As a boy is touched, he joins hands with those already touched, and the chain thus formed acts as the toucher. When the chain is broken those forming it are to run back to the base. If caught on their way there by the boys not touched a pick-a-back ride may be demanded.

19. **TOM TIDDLERS GROUND.**—A space of ground is to be defended from the inroads of the attackers.

SECTION II.

Outdoor sports requiring special places and apparatus.

1. **SWIMMING.**—This is a form of recreation which has been very successfully taught in many blind schools. Life saving and diving can also be taught.

2. **ROWING.**—A sighted cox is essential. The rowing is done by the Blind.

3. CYCLING.—This is very successfully taught at the Royal Normal College. The machines are built on the tricycle plan, and are constructed for four, five, or six persons, the person in charge of the steering being sighted.

4. SKITTLES.—These form a means of recreation in most blind schools. Little different from the sighted game except that each skittle fits into a shallow socket not deep enough to interfere with its balance when struck. Many blind persons attain a great deal of skill.

5. ALLEY FOOTBALL.—This is a game that has afforded a great deal of amusement to my own pupils.

It is played in a narrow passage about 5ft. wide, and 15 to 20 paces long. A basket ball (made of cane) about 10 inches in diameter is used. The game can be played by two, three, or four players on each side. The game which is played under hard and fast rules, drawn up by the "Blind Boys League," consists of throwing the ball along the alley so as to pass the defenders, and roll out at the end of the alley. Each player throws the ball in turn, and each side alternately. After so many throws each side, half time is called, and ends changed.

The game is played under the supervision of a referee, who has power to give fouls and penalties for various misdemeanours.

A league has been formed, and the matches played under its supervision, the top team gaining a shield.

6. ALLEY OR GYMNASIUM CRICKET.—This is played by blind boys. The wicket is made of wicker work, about 2ft. wide and 3ft. high. The wicker ball is rolled on the ground, or may be bounced, providing it bounces before it reaches the player. An ordinary bat is used, and the ordinary rules apply.

7. BASKET BALL GOLF.—This cannot properly be called a game in the ordinary way. Some of our blind boys derive much pleasure from it. It is played on the garden path round the lawn with a basket ball and a hockey stick. Various points along the path represent the holes, and the boy who gets round the path in the least number of strokes wins.

8. PUTTING THE WEIGHT.—The Blind play this in the same way as sighted persons.

9. GIANT STRIDE. }
 10. SEE-SAW. } These call for no comment.
 11. SWINGS. }

12. ROLLER SKATING.—Many blind persons attain a great amount of skill on roller skates.

It is always best to skate in pairs with a sighted partner.

13. TOP GAMES.—The humming-top, peg-top, and ordinary whip and top can be enjoyed by the Blind.

The top game called “Gulley” can also be played with peg-tops.

It is played by two or more players whose aim it is to knock a peg-top with their own on the throw down. Failing this the peg-top while spinning may be picked up on the palm of the hand and carried so (still spinning) to the object top.

SECTION III.

Outdoor Recreations.

1. GARDENING.—This has proved one of the most interesting features of our outdoor life during the spring and summer.

Two boys are given a strip of garden to take charge of, one part being for vegetables, and the other for flowers.

This form of recreation is useless for the totally blind unless a great deal of interest is taken in it by the teacher, and constant supervision is necessary. The blind boys water the gardens, dig them, and in some cases, such as with mustard and cress, sow the seeds. In sowing the larger seeds a hole is made, and they are taught to place the seed in it. If they are allowed to feel that they have really a part in the work their interest is extraordinary.

When the vegetables appear, they are very keen to taste the product of their labours, and so interest is maintained right to the close of the season.

2. OBSERVATION RAMBLES.—These can be described as walks taken by pupil and teacher in districts where the children can learn something from the simplest natural features. A walk round our garden without leaving the school grounds gives us an opportunity of studying such items as the different ways of

trees, shapes of leaves, differences in the bark, and the different fruits and vegetables. A walk along the sea shore, or in a wood, visits to famous buildings, are all observation rambles, and are a constant source of delight to the children.

3. **PETS.**—The pleasure derived from keeping, housing, and feeding pets is obvious.

Some of the pets we have kept here are :—Rabbits, birds (canary, parrot, etc.), tortoise, frogs, tadpoles, goldfish, fishes, silk-worms.

4. **MECHANICAL TOYS.**—Model railway track, model motor car, large enough to carry a boy, model yachts. We have also tried two aeroplanes, a monoplane and biplane, and although they have not flown up (they will fly down from a height) they have given the boys a great deal of instruction and pleasure.

SECTION IV.

Indoor sports and athletics with apparatus.

1. **GYMNASTICS.**—This opens up a very wide field in recreation, and should be left to a trained instructor. As a general rule the exercises should be of such a character as to develop easy and graceful carriage rather than strength.

2. **DUMB-BELLS.**—A series of simple exercises, such as are named in the Shoulder Blade Exercises, and Simple Arm Movements would be suitable as an indoor recreation. Light dumb-bells only should be used.

3. **INDIAN CLUBS.**—Probably the most difficult exercises to teach the Blind. For the directions of the planes in which the Clubs revolve a wall or other plane surface should be used.

4. **WAND EXERCISES.**—These form a very graceful and useful series of exercises. Mr. Guy Campbell has a book on the subject, from which a very entertaining and instructive syllabus could be prepared.

5. **PHYSICAL DEVELOPERS.**—In the use of these it is best to aim more at elasticity of movement, than acquiring muscular development.

SECTION V.

Indoor recreations, educational in character.

1. **READING.**

2. BEING READ TO.—These are too obvious to require comment.

3. READING CHARACTERS IN A PLAY.—Much enjoyment can be obtained from this form of amusement, the effect of reading aloud the words of the character adds verisimilitude.

4. AMATEUR THEATRICALS.—Such pieces as the “Trial Scene” from the Merchant of Venice, “The Tent Scene” from Julius Cæsar and others, which require no elaborate stage setting or action, are a continual source of interest and instruction both at the rehearsal and performance.

We have done those mentioned with success.

5. VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC.—This has become more of an occupation than a recreation. Glees, concerts, and bands form a regular feature in the recreations of most institutions, especially in the winter.

Among smaller children zobo and comb bands are a source of much pleasure.

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|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| 6. WOOD CARVING. | } These form an outlet for some |
| 7. CLAY MODELLING. | |
| 8. BENT IRON WORK. | |
- of the artistic instincts of many blind persons.

SECTION VI.

Indoor games requiring two or more players in which the competitive element is foremost.

1. CHESS.—The game of chess and solving chess problems (taken from the papers, the *Daily Mail*—Braille Edition—publishes one regularly), are enjoyed by most blind persons. Two sets should be provided, one for each player. Tournaments can be arranged.

2. DRAUGHTS.—This is a game requiring perhaps less skill than chess. It is best played on two boards.

3. DOMINOES.—This game most blind children can play.

4. CARDS.—Crib and whist can readily be learned by persons of average intelligence.

Crib is especially suitable for the Blind.

5. NOUGHTS AND CROSSES.—This is the ordinary sighted game adapted for the Blind. It can be played on a prepared

board, grooved to represent the crossed lines, and pegs used to represent the noughts, pegs of a different type to represent the crosses.

The game is easily played with types on Taylor's Octagonal Board. (Apparatus supplied).

6. RACING GAME.—This is a piece of wood cut in an oval shape to represent a race track, the board is grooved to represent moves.

Each player is provided with a horse, and by casting the dice he is able to move his horse. Various obstacles and penalties are employed to give variety.

7. "HOW TO GET THERE,"—This is simply the Tube Railway game adapted and simplified. It is very easily made, and a county or even the whole of England can be used instead of London. The Carriages of the players are moved along certain Railways according to the spin of a roulette. Tickets are used similar to railway tickets, and the person who gets to his destination first wins the game. The sighted game can be purchased for 3d. from Smith's Bookstalls.

8. SOLITAIRE.—This is much in demand among our boys. They play it like noughts and crosses on the arithmetic board.

9. TIP-IT.—Played by two sides. The object of the game is to guess in which hand among the opponents the coin is hidden.

10. LETTER AND ALPHABET GAMES.—There are numbers of these games. The one published by the British and Foreign Blind Association gives the rules and pieces, and is very instructive and entertaining. It is called "word making and word taking."

SECTION VII.

Indoor games requiring many players. (Parlour games).

1. HOUSE ON FIRE.—This is a race between two rows. The object is to pass a number of articles along from hand to hand, drop them into a basket at the end, and repass them to the starting point.

2. CHARADES.—This requires a number of sighted persons to assist, and is so well known that no comment is necessary.

3. **MUSICAL CHAIRS.**—This game is very well known, and quite as popular among the Blind as among the seeing.

4. **JOLLY MILLER.**—The party is divided into two circles (concentric) with two or three players in the centre of the inner circle.

They sing a simple rhyme as the circles revolve in opposite directions.

Our rendering of the words is as follows ;—

“There was a jolly miller who lived by himself,
As the wheel went round he made his wealth,
One hand in the hopper and the other in the bag,
As the wheel went round he made his grab.”

At the word grab, the persons on the outer circle change places with their nearest companion in the inner circle. It is the object of the persons in the centre to try and displace any players in the inner circle who do not change fast enough.

5. **THE OBJECT GAME.**—Is a race in guessing. The party divides itself into two parts. Two players leave the room, one from each side, and agree on an object. When the players return the party of each player gathers around him and plies him with questions. A great deal depends on the choice of an object, the more difficult it is of course the longer time will be taken asking questions and so guessing the object.

6. **WAXWORKS.**—This is the same style as Mrs. Jarley's waxworks. The players should dress up to represent different characters, and must act their parts. The blind players should play the characters, and the seeing guess whom they represent.

7. **CRAMBO.**—This is guessing an object by a person, whose only clue is the rhyme. He proceeds round the room asking questions, the only answers allowed being Yes or No.

A great many of the parlour games can be enjoyed by the Blind, especially when there are many seeing persons playing.

SECTION VIII.

Miscellaneous Amusements.

1. **ARITHMETICAL PUZZLES.**—One very common one is giving the answer to the following :—Think of a number, double

it, add eight, halve the answer, subtract the number thought. Answer is 4.

2. MECHANICAL PUZZLES.—Jig-saw and many iron, paper and wire puzzles.

3. VISITS TO THEATRES AND CONCERTS.

THE ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND, BRADFORD.

The Jubilee celebration of this important Institution for the Blind, took place on May 1st and 2nd, and everything went off most successfully. A very well got up booklet with some good portraits was published for the occasion, and in it were given other interesting events in connection with the Institution, and the principal information. We are glad to hear that in April last His Majesty the King was graciously pleased to accede to the Committee's request and to command that the Institution be styled "Royal." The Exhibition was opened on May 15th by the Lord Mayor, Mr. Frederick Priestman (Chairman of the Institute) presiding. Subsequent to the opening of the Exhibition, the chairman entertained the Mayor and the Mayoress and the members of the North of England Union for the Blind to lunch.

Mr. Priestman, in introducing the Lord Mayor, said that the Exhibition represented work done at all the principal Institutions in the kingdom. One of the difficulties they had to contend with was the finding of profitable work which blind people could do. That the State would sooner or later have to interfere and supplement the work of the Blind was a settled conviction in his own mind.

The Lord Mayor, in declaring the Exhibition open, said he thought that they ought on such an occasion to remember those who did the first spade work, and had the first responsibility in connection with doing something for the Blind in Bradford. So far as the Corporation was concerned he was pleased to say that the Education Committee had taken the matter in hand as soon as it was properly pointed out to them what their duty was. The Sites and Buildings Committee had passed plans for the building of a school and home for the Blind under sixteen years

of age. What the Institution required was that the State should adequately support the work.

Mr. William Harvey, of the Leeds Institution, proposed a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress, and this was seconded and carried. The exhibition was thoroughly representative of trades carried on by the Blind, and many of the large Institutions sent exhibits. At 3 p.m. the annual meeting of the North of England Union of Societies for the Blind took place and is described on page 472. At 5 p.m. a visit was paid to the Institution and to the Men's and Women's Homes.

In the evening, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress entertained a large company. The concert in the Council Chamber had a special interest in that the performers were almost without exception blind. The choir of the Bradford Institution amply maintained its past reputation. The star of the evening was Mr. Victor Spanner, Mus. Bac., F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M., a blind pianist, who combines a wonderful command of technique with a broad and sympathetic range of expression. Songs were also pleasingly rendered by Miss Lister and Mr. Wearmouth. Miss Shepherd played a violin solo, and also supplied the obligato for two of Miss Lister's songs.

During the evening an interesting and instructive lecture was delivered by Mr. Henry Stainsby, secretary general of the British and Foreign Blind Association, on the past and present education, training and employment of the Blind. Mr. Stainsby at the outset paid a warm tribute to the Bradford Institution, which stood, he said, in the very forefront of all the Institutions for the Blind. Forty per cent. of the blindness in the country was preventable, and he urged the importance of early attention being paid to any ophthalmic symptoms in infants. The lecturer briefly dwelt upon various phases in connection with the amelioration of the condition of the Blind, his remarks being illustrated by a large number of lantern slides. In dealing with the almost innumerable systems of "blind" type, Mr. Stainsby remarked that the earliest typewriter had been devised for the use of the Blind.

On May 2nd at 11 a.m., there was a conference at the Institution, when Mr. Priestman again presided.

The Chairman said he was extremely glad that the North of England Union had consented to the conference being held in Bradford at this time when they were celebrating the jubilee of the Bradford Institution. He thought the attendance of the delegates had added greatly to the interest of the jubilee proceeding, and he hoped that as a consequence great good would accrue to the work for the Blind.

Mr. W. H. Tate read a paper dealing with the history of the Bradford Institution for the Blind from the time of its inception fifty years ago. He related the financial difficulties of the pioneers, and paid a high tribute to the unremitting exertions of the late Miss Holloway and Mrs. Lythall and others whom they had induced to come to the assistance of the establishment. He traced carefully the growth of the work from small beginnings to the present large undertaking, and explained how repeated difficulties with regard to finances had been overcome. Amongst other things, he testified to the valuable help given to the institution by Mr. Priestman, who had been chairman since 1883.

Mr. Miles Priestley, secretary and manager of the Bradford Institution, stated that it had been a great pleasure to him to know by personal experience the work done during the past twenty-four years. When he first knew the work, blind men were employed in ordinary competition with the sighted. The main difference in the work of the two sections was that of speed. It was not so to-day. The introduction of machinery, of female labour at cheap rates, and the increased importation of cheap foreign goods had been the means of flooding the market with articles at very low prices, to the great detriment of the wage-earning powers of the Blind. These changes had compelled the sighted to turn to other industries, but for the Blind the field of labour was very limited. It was difficult to find new trades yielding satisfactory remuneration. When it was remembered that one-half of the Blind population had lost their sight after school age, there could be no doubt of the urgent need for better and more general employment. Of the 25,317 blind persons in England and Wales a large proportion were incapacitated by various causes from earning anything appreci-

able towards self-maintenance, but it was estimated that 6,000 persons over sixteen years of age were now in enforced idleness, though capable of employment. It was clear that the State ought to assist in remedying the present unfortunate state of affairs. Mr. Priestly outlined four possible schemes, any one of which would possibly meet the needs of the present position in Bradford.

Blind children from 5 to 16 years of age attend the Council day school in Carlton Street, but it is proposed to build a new residential school to accommodate about 48 children. On reaching 16 years the young persons are transferred to the Institution for the Blind, and placed in special classes apart from the regular workshops, under the supervision of duly-qualified teachers. The classes are supported by the Bradford Education Committee, and are recognised by the Board of Education as day technical classes. Maintenance scholarships are granted to each pupil at 16 for 5 years, amounting to £10 for each of the first 4 years and £15 for the 5th year. At 21 they are transferred to the workshops and engaged at "piece work" as regular employees of the Institution. The problem of dealing with the Blind who lose their sight in adult life was a very difficult one. The Bradford Board of Guardians had generously assisted the committee of the Bradford Institution in trying to find a satisfactory solution. Two residential homes had been established. There were 16 inmates in the men's home and 10 in the women's. This provision was made for Blind persons unable to earn sufficient for their own support. The homes were carried on in harmony with the general character and purposes of the main Institution. The men were trained in brushmaking and wood chopping. The women were taught needlework and chair-caning. Only a small percentage made sufficient progress to become self-supporting. The inmates, however, lived much happier lives than would otherwise be possible. In the few cases where they became self-supporting, they were transferred to the main Institution and employed as ordinary workers. The Board of Guardians also gave special consideration to cases of blindness where out-door relief appeared to be the best way of dealing

with them. Adequate relief was given according to the needs of the case, and in some instances the relief was paid through the Institution, because the Blind knew the Institution, and would have difficulty in attending at other places. The committee of the Institution and the Board of Guardians had an understanding that no person should receive relief from both authorities. Blind persons were not allowed to beg in the streets of Bradford. They were given the option of entering the homes or leaving the town. Many of them left the town. The whole system worked remarkably well, but should be extended by providing a larger income for alteration and extension of premises, for additional apparatus, and for augmentation of wages, so that a rate of payment sufficient for the proper maintenance of the workers could be guaranteed. A Government grant of £10 per annum for each blind person regularly employed to the satisfaction of His Majesty's inspector would be a great help. Orders should also be given from Government departments to keep the Blind fully employed. Such grants would enable the Institutions to pay a satisfactory rate of wages to all employed.

Mr. W. H. Illingworth (Manchester), who opened the discussion, paid a warm tribute to the work of Mr. Priestley. There had been too much pampering and coddling of the Blind in the past. When the children were sent out into the world they found it hard and became dismayed. They should be treated in their young days more like other children and taught to do things for themselves.

Mr. F. J. Munby (York) alluded to the jubilee of the York School for the Blind in 1883, and said that great things had sprung from that celebration. He believed that like results would follow this jubilee.

Mr. F. H. Bentham, Chairman of the Bradford Board of Guardians, said he thought he might claim for his Board that they had done what they could to assist the Institution to train the Blind in habits of usefulness and thrift. They preferred, where possible, that grants should be made in bulk to the Institution rather than that the Blind should have to apply direct

to the relieving officers. They could not expect that all blind persons would be able to earn their own livelihood, and it was a matter for careful consideration what should be done. He trusted that other Boards of Guardians might be induced to treat the Blind as a special class, and not try to supplant Institutions.

Mr. A. B. Norwood (York) and Mr. W. J. Day (Blackburn) also spoke.

The delegates were entertained to luncheon, as they had been on the previous day, by Mr. and Mrs. Priestman.

It had been intended that there should be a garden party in Saltaire Park, but unfortunately the weather made this impossible. The visit to Saltaire was made by about 500 blind persons and their guides, who were conveyed in special tramcars. Instead of the park, the visitors went to the Victoria Hall, where the Bradford City Police Band rendered a programme of music that was greatly appreciated. After tea Mr. Victor Spanner gave an organ recital in the Congregational Church, following which there was an entertainment in the Victoria Hall. Mr. Priestman presided at the entertainment, and on behalf of the committee of the Institution, distributed nearly £100 amongst Blind members of the audience. Each of the blind workers in the Institution received 10s., adult outside workers 5s., and every child 2s. 6d. Mr. Priestman, in the course of an address referred to the magnitude of the work of the Institution to-day, pointing out that since 1906 the employees had increased by over 50 per cent.

In connection with the jubilee celebrations there was a very pleasant gathering presided over by Mr. Miles Priestley, when a solid silver rose bowl bearing the following inscription: "To Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Priestman, from the employees of the Royal Institution for the Blind of Bradford and the outside Blind in the city, on the occasion of the jubilee celebrations, May, 1911," was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Priestman. The gift was purchased by subscriptions from 271 blind workers.

The Blind.

VOL. III.

No. 56.

OCTOBER 20TH, 1911.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before December 18th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught has graciously consented to be President of the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union of Societies for the Blind. Copies of the report of the Union for 1910, can be obtained from Miss C. Bennett, Organising Secretary, at the office, Denison House, room 47, 296, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.

2. By the death of Mr. William Harris, at the age of 75, who passed peacefully away after a few days illness, on the 16th of August last at his house, Mill Gap, Eastbourne, the Blind have lost a real true friend, who was ever working in a quiet way on their behalf. For many years he had suffered continuously from shingles in the face, and when they attacked his eyes, as sometimes happened, his suffering was intense. For this reason, and from increasing deafness, he has not taken a very public part of recent years in matters relating to the Blind, although he attended the Exeter Conference in July and spoke on several subjects. In consequence of this semi-retirement from active

service, he was little known amongst those who have joined in the work for the Blind during the last 10 or 15 years, but those who had known him for over a quarter of a century, as we had, can testify to his active, strenuous and conscientious work on behalf of the Blind, and to the liberality with which he assisted out of his private means individual cases recommended to him. It was he, who, with the late Col. Mansfield Turner, brought out the first Guide to Institutions and Charities for the Blind in 1871, with a second edition in 1884. Apparently, however, there was an earlier edition issued privately, September 24th, 1866. He had several books about the Blind reprinted, and had many leaflets, magazine articles, and pamphlets bound together in volumes. These books, of which he had several copies, he always willingly gave to anyone who desired them, and only recently he made a valuable gift of such books to the College of Teachers of the Blind. What he and his brother, who survives him, did in connection with the workshop at Leicester is known to all, and we need do no more than refer to their time, talents and financial help unstintedly and readily given at all times. Mr. Harris was deeply religious and had a firm faith in God, realizing that by His aid alone could any work be carried on successfully. His simple faith and goodness always found expression incidentally but unmistakably in his speeches. In every sense he was a good man, thoroughly conscientious, kind and unselfish to a remarkable degree. We feel that a strong influence for good has passed away by the demise of a staunch practical sympathiser with the poor and suffering, especially the Blind, and that in him we have lost a true and faithful friend and fellow-worker.

At a meeting of the Committee of the Yorkshire School for the Blind held on the 8th September. It was resolved: "That this Committee in recording the death of the late Mr. William Harris (formerly of Leicester) at his home at Eastbourne, desire to acknowledge the deep debt of gratitude owing to him by all, for his life-long devotion to the welfare of the Blind, his perseverance and patient study of every means possible, and every work done, to develop their lives and to

lighten their affliction, and his munificence in the circulation of literature and of articles made by the Blind or likely to assist them in any manufacture." The resolution is signed by the Dean of York, Chairman of the Committee.

3. We much regret to have to report the death of Mr. John Shave, Superintendent and secretary of the Norwich Institution for the Blind, on July 9th, after a short illness. Mr. Shave had been secretary and superintendent of the Institution for 25 years, and during that time it was practically rebuilt and the workshops remodelled. Mr. and Mrs Shave were much respected and beloved by all who came under their charge, and the Committee of Management feel that they have lost a most efficient servant in Mr. Shave, and also that the loss to the Institution by the retirement of Mrs. Shave from the post of Matron will be much felt. The Committee hope to appoint successors who will carry out their duties with the same efficiency and conscientiousness as Mr. and Mrs. Shave did, and with the same care for the comfort and welfare of the blind inmates.

4. It is with very deep regret that we have to announce the death of the Rev. W. H. Murray, agent of the National Bible Society of Scotland, in China. Mr. Murray was a most remarkable man and his invention of the numeral type for the Blind and illiterate persons in China was a colossal and most successful work. He started a school in Peking, and everyone who visited it was struck with the rapidity and correctness with which his pupils read and wrote. Some of the readers of this notice will remember Mr. Murray at the Conference on the Blind held at Westminster in 1902, and his earnest words. Miss C. F. Gordon-Cumming, who was also present, visited China, and has written a most interesting book about him, entitled "The inventor of the numeral type for China."

5. At the Royal College of Organists on July 22nd, Edward Austin, aged 18, received his Diploma as a Fellow, and Andries Van Velden as an Associate. In the Fellowship

Examination only twenty-seven candidates passed out of one hundred and twenty-seven, and in the Associates Examination, only forty-six out of two hundred and twenty-four; both these young men were successful at their first attempt. Austin was sent to the Elementary Department of the Royal Normal College by the East Sussex Educational Council, and now holds a Gardner Scholarship. Van Velden has been a pupil in the School for the Blind, Worcester, Cape Colony, where he studied under Mr. Greenwood, a graduate of the Royal Normal College, and came to Norwood to continue his studies.

6. T. W. Platt, a student at Henshaw's Blind Asylum, has passed the First Examination in Music for the degree of Mus. Bac. held at Durham University, September 21st. Fifty-eight Candidates presented themselves, and only nine were successful.

7. We are glad to hear that Mr. Joseph Hall, Hon. Sec., of the Swansea Institution for the Blind, is now nearly well after a very long and painful attack of neuritis in the right arm, which affected his hand so that he was unable to write for over 14 weeks.

8. The fifth edition of the pamphlet "Information with regard to Institutions, Societies and Classes for the Blind," by Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Secretary of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, is now ready, price 4½d., post free, and can be obtained at the office of the Trust, 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W. The new edition contains 17 more pages than the last one, gives information about the College of Teachers of the Blind, the Unions of the Societies for the Blind, and several other new Societies. Fuller information is also given about the Institutions for the Blind in Scotland and Ireland. The sundry Societies have nearly doubled in number, there now being 30 instead of 16. In consequence of this additional matter the postage is now 1½d. instead of 1d. as hitherto.

9. "The Blind Comrade," by Mr. Stuart Johnson, price 3d., post free, can be obtained at the office of the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union of Societies for the Blind, room 47, Denison House, 296, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W., and should be in the hands of all workers—especially new ones—for the Blind. An excellent address with the above title was given to the representatives of the Metropolitan Union, and by their special request it has been published in a booklet, as they felt very strongly that such useful information should be available at all times, and that it would be specially useful to novices in the difficult work for the Blind.

10. "Heroes of the Darkness" is a new book by Mr. J. B. Mannix, and published by Messrs. S. W. Partridge & Co., price 2/- . It has 30 illustrations and 2 coloured prints. The volume presents the life-stories of a group of sightless men and women who, by genius or force of character, have achieved celebrity or success. The monographs are well and brightly written, and will prove a source of encouragement and inspiration to many blind men. We advise our sighted friends to read the book, and we feel sure they will be much interested in the vivid description of the lives of eleven well-known blind persons. It must have been extremely difficult for Mr. Mannix to select the eleven, but we think on the whole the selection has been wise and will give general satisfaction. The names of the eleven are Helen Keller, Sir F. J. Campbell, Henry Fawcett, Laura Bridgman, Dr. Armitage, Thomas Blacklock, D.D., John Stanley, Mus. Bac., François Huber, John Metcalf, Nicholas Saunderson, F.R.S., and John Milton.

11. Copies of the report of the International Conference held in Manchester in 1908 can now be obtained for 1/4, post free, from Mr. Henry J. Wilson, 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

12. The well-known magazine "Channels of Blessing" is about to be published in the Moon Type, as well as in Braille. We hope to give full particulars in the next number.

13. At the request of Mr. Hugh E. Walford, the Town Council of the County Borough of Reading gave him 5/- to distribute as a gift to each blind person in Reading to celebrate the Coronation in a suitable and convenient manner.

14. We understand that the Council of the British and Foreign Blind Association have made a valuable and generous gift of 1,000 vols. to the Incorporated National Lending Library for the Blind, on condition that they shall be bound and circulated by the Library.

15. Papers on the present conditions and possibilities of Public Libraries' service to the Blind, advocating the following resolution, were read by Miss E. W. Austin, Librarian of the Incorporated National Lending Library for the Blind, and Mr. G. E. Roebuck, Chief Librarian of the Walthamstow Public Libraries, at a meeting at the Libraries' Association Conference at Perth, on September 7th. "That in the opinion of this Conference of Librarians it is desirable to effect a systematized circulation of embossed literature amongst the Blind through the medium of the Public Libraries; that the Library Association Council be asked to elect a Special Committee (with power to co-opt) for the purpose of investigating the best means to this end, and that this Special Committee report to the next Annual Meeting."

The following message was delivered from the members of the Exeter Conference on the Blind: "The delegates present during the Third Triennial Conference on the Blind, learn with great satisfaction of a proposal on the part of the Library Association to consider at their Perth Conference means to assist a more systematized circulation of embossed literature among the Blind; they send hearty thanks to the Library Association for calling further attention to this matter, and in anticipation of some action arising out of the deliberations of the assembled librarians, pledge themselves to all possible co-operation."

Several of the Librarians spoke with great judgment and sympathy of this branch of their work, and after an unexpectedly

long and interesting discussion, the resolution was passed unanimously. It is difficult to overestimate the importance of this appointment of a Sub-Committee to deal with the interests of the Blind. It is the first time that the Public Libraries as a body, have taken up this matter, though 70 individual Libraries already cater for their local Blind in some measure. A most fortunate result may be expected from this step, which will give to the Blind the benefit of the experience and influence of those who would do so much for them. Special gratitude is due to Mr. Roebuck, who so ably dealt with the matter from the point of view of the Public Librarians, and whose opinion as an experienced and disinterested friend of the Blind had due weight.

A practical application of the spirit of the two conferences in the relations of the two Committees they would bring into existence, should tend to remove one of the most apparent disabilities of the present-day Blind.

16. At the Royal National Eisteddfod recently held at Carmarthen, the workers at the Cardiff Institute for the Blind showed clearly their proficiency in various trades, as the following employees obtained prizes:—Emma Butler in hand-knitted stockings, John Baker in butter baskets, Robert Walker in doormats, Fanny Varder in fancy hand baskets, and Annie White and Ethel Williams both in chairseating in cane.

17. On September 16th a Festival was held in the Hampstead Garden Suburb to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the opening by the then Lord Mayor, Sir William Treloar, of the first cottage built by Hampstead Tenants Ltd. The hosts were the employees of the Society, associated with whom were a number of the children on the estate: the guests, 80 crippled and blind children and their teachers from two of the L.C.C. Special Schools, and a party of blind home workers, with their guides from South London.

The organisers of the Festival fell in very cordially with a suggestion made to them that the occasion should be used as a

means of enlisting the sympathies of the residents in the Garden Suburb in the special needs of the Blind. A Sale and Exhibition of work by the Society, "Eyes to the Blind," managed by Miss Douglas-Hamilton, the British and Foreign Blind Association, the Barclay Workshop, and the School for the Blind at Swiss Cottage, was opened by Mr. H. Vivian (Chairman of Co-partnership Tenants, Ltd.), who pleaded for aid for both blind and crippled—not merely the giving of subscriptions to Institutions, or of charitably intended doles which too often sap the energy and self-reliance of the recipient, but the real aid which builds up character, and fosters independence by helping those who are handicapped in the race of life to rise superior to their affliction, and take their place in the world as useful and self-respecting citizens.

Miss Treloar accepted on behalf of her father a purse containing over £46, collected on the estate for the benefit of the Cripples' Home at Alton; after which Mr. Stainsby, of the British and Foreign Blind Association made an effective appeal for aid for the Blind.

Sir Francis and Lady Campbell showed their never failing interest by coming from Norwood to be present.

With the intention of proving how well the Blind can compete with the sighted in many ways, an entertainment had been arranged by Miss M. E. Harris Browne and the British and Foreign Blind Association, during which demonstrations were given of Braille Printing and Illustration, and reading from Braille, also of Braille Shorthand and Typewriting by a blind girl.

Afterwards by the kind permission of the Vicar of St. Jude's Church, an Organ Recital was given by Mr. Watling, F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M., from the Royal Normal College.

There was a large attendance throughout the afternoon, and it was evident that genuine interest had been awakened. The children spent the day out of doors, where, between dinner and tea, all sorts of amusements were provided for their pleasure—their little hosts bringing treasured toys and dolls to show them, and volunteering to act as guides to the Blind among them.

The London County Council showed their sympathy by sending the children in their special ambulances. Nothing could have exceeded the kindness of the organisers of the Festival and of the residents in the Garden Suburb, at their head Mr. Ramsbotham, and also Mr. Litchfield, with whom the idea of holding a Sale for the benefit of the blind workers originated, and who was unsparing in his efforts to ensure its success.

18. The Committee appointed by the International Conference on the Blind held at Exeter in July last to consider the question of Libraries for the Blind have soon got to work, and the first meeting was held in London on July 20th, when there were present Lady Campbell, Miss Austin, Miss Comber, Miss Heywood, Miss Moon, and Messrs. Dixon, Royston and Wilson.

On the proposal of Lady Campbell, seconded by Miss Heywood, Mr. Wilson was unanimously elected chairman of the Committee. Miss Austin was appointed by the Conference, Hon. Sec. of the Committee. Miss Bainbrigge, Rev. C. E. Bolam, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Dr. Ranger and Mr. Stone wrote regretting their inability to be present.

It was unanimously resolved to co-opt on to the Committee, Mr. E. C. Hamley, Chairman of the National Lending Library for the Blind, and Mr. H. V. Niederhausern, Secretary of the Northern Counties Blind Society.

The terms of reference to the Committee were discussed at some length, and ultimately it was resolved to appoint a sub-committee, consisting of Lady Campbell, Miss Austin, Mr. Dixon and Mr. Stone, to draw up index cards for use in the formation of a Union Catalogue, and to draft a scheme for the federation of libraries for the Blind.

19. On July 15th the annual prize festival of the Royal Normal College for the Blind took place, and there was a large gathering. The Mayor of Croydon occupied the chair, and the prizes were presented by the Mayoress. Mrs. Westlake, who was formerly a member of the old London School Board, gave an address, and referred to the invaluable work carried on at the

College, especially its strenuousness, and also to the advantage of blind teachers. Mr. Layton, a former student of the College and a most successful one, also addressed the meeting, and referred with gratitude to the training he had received. He lost his sight at 13 years of age, was trained as a pianoforte tuner, went out to Montreal, and is now a partner in one of the largest businesses in Canada, the annual turnover being £25,000. He added that he was working for the Blind in the province of Quebec, and that he hoped a Royal Canadian College for the Blind would soon be erected. He concluded with a few earnest words to the present students, urging them not to allow their blindness to be a hindrance to their progress. We hope to give extracts from these two important speeches in our next issue. The annual report of the College for 1910 was circulated at the gathering, and is most instructive and interesting.

20. On July 13th the annual speech day and prize distribution took place at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester. In the unavoidable and regrettable absence of Lord Cobham, the Chairman of the Council, Canon Robertson presided. There was was a large attendance of former students. The proceedings commenced with an organ recital by Mr. W. Wolstenholme, Mus. Bac., a former student, and this was followed by a concert given by old and present students. After Canon Robertson had referred to several matters connected with the College, the Headmaster made his annual report, and mentioned the successes gained. The prizes were presented by Mrs. Smith, of Whittington, and a cordial vote of thanks to her was moved by Dr. Ranger in one of his lucid and interesting speeches, in which he referred to blindness as nothing more nor less than a pure deduction from the faculties, and that the sufferer was left with a whole range of capabilities which could be brought to a high degree of efficiency.

21. The following is a copy of the Coronation Address from the staff and pupils of the Royal Normal College, and of their Majesties acknowledgments:—

“Your Majesties most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Staff and Pupils of the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind, Upper Norwood, S.E., beg humbly to tender sincere and heartfelt congratulations to our Gracious King, His Majesty King George V., and to our Beloved Queen, Her Majesty Queen Mary, on the occasion of Their Coronation, June 1911.

Gratefully thanking Their Majesties for the interest They have always taken in the welfare of this Institution, it will ever be our prayer that God may grant them health to enjoy life, strength to carry on the burdens of State, and continued prosperity throughout Their reign.”

Sir Francis Campbell received the following replies; (a), from the Keeper of His Majesty's Privy Purse:—

“I have received your letter of the 21st inst., and have submitted to the King the Address from the Staff and Pupils of The Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind.

I am to request you to convey to all the blind inmates of the College the expression of His Majesty's sincere thanks for their loyal and touching address, as well as the assurance of the King's admiration of the example of courage and resignation that they so nobly set and of the heroic patience with which they bear one of the greatest of all human afflictions,” and (b):—

“Mr. Wallington is commanded by the Queen to convey to the Staff and Pupils of The Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind, Her very warm thanks for their kind congratulations on the occasion of Her Majesty's Coronation. The Queen is much pleased with the admirable manner in which the address has been embossed and typed, and heartily appreciates the good wishes which the Staff and Pupils express for Her Majesty's health and happiness.”

22. We much regret that the article “A week-end in London,” by a Dundee blind man, and several other matters are unavoidably deferred until the next number.

23. We have received from Mr. Hedger a letter in which a cordial invitation to attend the Conference in January next in Australia is extended to all those who are interested in the welfare of the Blind. Mr. Hedger kindly sent us an account of the Conference of managers held last January in Sydney, but we regret that there is no space to print it in the present number.

24. We are pleased to hear that an amendment to the Education Law in New York State has recently been made by which the education of the Blind is rendered compulsory. We understand that this important advance in the interest of the Blind is largely, if not wholly, due to the persistent energy and persuasion of Miss Winifred Holt.

25. A depôt solely for the sale of goods made by the Blind, was opened on October 2nd, at 53, Church Road, Wimbledon. The Hon. Sec. and Treasurer is Miss Hastings, Parham, The Grange, who has shewn much energy and enthusiasm in initiating and carrying out the scheme. A committee has been formed with Sir John Bramston, G.C.M.G., as chairman. We feel sure that such a depôt is a move in the right direction, and we believe and hope that it will be successful in disposing of goods made by the Blind, and that the example will be followed by other similar efforts.

THE UNIONS OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

The Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union. A meeting of the Executive Committee was held in London, on the 10th June, when there were present Mr. Wilson, in the Chair, Sir John Brickwood, Miss Harris Browne, Sir Francis Campbell, Mrs. Goodhart, Miss Moon, Miss Taylor, Miss Wheeler, Mr. Stuart Johnson, Mr. Guy Campbell, and Miss Bennett. Mr. Robert Moon, M.B., Secretary to the Pennsylvania Home Teaching Society for the Blind and President of the Chopin

Memorial Home for the Blind, Philadelphia, U.S.A., attended as a visitor.

On behalf of the Committee the Chairman gave a hearty welcome to Mr. Moon, who had come over from Philadelphia to attend the Exeter Conference for the Blind.

The Chairman was requested to try to secure H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught as President of the Union.

Regrets for inability to attend the Meeting were reported on behalf of Miss Charnock, Miss Bainbrigge, Mr. Lempriere, and Mr. Stainsby.

The Chairman reported that since the last meeting Dr. Ranger had suffered a severe loss in the death of his wife. On the motion of Sir Francis Campbell, seconded by Miss Taylor, it was unanimously agreed to request the Chairman to write Dr. Ranger a letter of condolence.

Mr. Stuart Johnson reported that a meeting had been held at his house at which twenty-three representatives attended, and the Chairman added that Mr. Johnson read a most interesting paper on "The Blind Comrade," and he was asked by the meeting to have it printed.

Miss Bennett reported on her work at the office during the past month, and stated that 112 tickets had been sent out from the Concert Ticket Bureau since the last meeting.

The Chairman reported that Miss Taylor and himself attended the meeting convened at Ely by the Dean, and that the Lord Lieutenant of the County was present. The meeting was in every way successful, and it was hoped it would tend to the formation of an Eastern Counties Union.

The literature in regard to mutual registration was considered, and it was decided to ask Mr. Sharpe to attend the next meeting on the 22nd July at noon.

The Hon. Secretary read a letter from the Blind Social Aid Society referring to the fact that the Blind, under the New Insurance Bill, would have to become Post Office Contributors. After considerable discussion it was agreed that a meeting should be arranged between Mr. Carr, the Hon. Secretary of the Blind Social Aid Society, Mr. Campbell and the Chairman.

Mr. Wilson reported that owing to the recent death of her mother, his niece Miss Wilson would regretfully be compelled to tender her resignation as an Hon. District Representative.

It was agreed that Miss Bennett should attend the Exeter Conference.

A further meeting of the executive committee was held on July 22nd, when much important business was transacted, and Mr. Sharpe attended to explain the scheme for mutual registration.

THE BLIND AND THE CENSUS OF 1911.

By N. Bishop Harman, M.A., M.B. Cantab,
F.R.C.S., England.

Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Belgrave Hospital for Children, Assistant Ophthalmic Surgeon to the West London Hospital, Oculist to the London County Council Blind Schools.

The Census Paper of 1911 showed an alteration in the last column provided for entries. In census papers of earlier decades provision was made for the enumeration of the Blind. No qualification of this term was indicated, the description was "blind" only. In the paper of this year the description was altered, it appeared as "totally blind."

At first sight the alteration may not suggest much, but on closer examination it will be found that the addition of the adjective has destroyed one of the most useful of the census returns, both by unduly limiting the enquiry made by the census, and by presenting a conundrum of no little difficulty to those who have to fill in the census paper.

Before attempting to show what will be the effect of this alteration upon the enumeration of the Blind, it will be well to show what in all probability has led to this change in the census designation.

Last year during the course of committee work connected with the Blind it was found that there was ground for belief that the enquiry presented by the census paper failed to obtain anything like a proper enumeration of persons who were BLIND

FOR THE PRACTICAL PURPOSES OF LIFE. Changes in modern, social, and industrial conditions have thrown into the category of "blind for practical purposes" many who would not ordinarily consider themselves blind. A person, for example, who can just see his way about in ordinary traffic and read printed matter at his own distance, does not consider himself blind. Yet that same person for the purpose of education, or for earning a living in ordinary competition, must now-a-days be considered blind. Acts of Parliament, such as those dealing with employers' liability, render these persons unemployable in all ordinary trades; the risk to the employers is too great, so special work has to be made for such partially blind persons. Or, again, the Education Acts require that with such poor vision a child shall be educated in a special school at a cost far in excess of that necessary for a normally sighted child. Both special schools for the Blind, and employers' liability legislation were designed to ameliorate the condition of those suffering a handicap; and so they do, but at the same time they intensify that handicap in other directions, *e.g.*, the training of a blind school is a benefit and a delight to the child, but it is difficult to secure work for a youth just out of a blind school.

These modern industrial conditions have greatly increased the work of charitable societies and care committees dealing with the Blind, so much so that from many quarters there have arisen demands for special privileges and provision for the Blind. Such, for example, as free travel upon municipal tramways, and the institution of state workshops for the Blind. The justification or otherwise of such demands must be put to the test of the conditions of the situation. The first condition that must be proved before demands for special treatment can be met is that there exist a considerable number of persons lying under the disability of "blindness for practical purposes." The collection of reliable data upon such a point for the whole country is an impossibility for private individuals or societies, but the State can secure it without difficulty in the ordinary course of numbering the people.

With a view to secure such a State enquiry it was proposed by a committee that a deputation should wait upon the Registrar-General submitting to him these points, and to ask his aid. Mr. H. J. Wilson, of the Gardner Trust for the Blind, and myself, were selected. We had a lengthy and most interesting interview with the Registrar and his staff. We asked that in the census for 1911 he should require information concerning (1) Blind. (2) Partially Blind. If any definition were required of these terms they might read: 1. Totally or Stone Blind, with the explanation "not able to see his way about." 2. Partially Blind. (a) A child who attends blind school; (b) adult unable to earn living by ordinary sighted work. The view was expressed that in all probability the terms themselves were sufficiently descriptive without added explanation. At the conclusion of the interview I was inclined to think that the object of the deputation had been attained, at least in the sympathetic consideration of our case by the Registrar-General. But, alas, when the actual census paper appeared it was clear that we had failed, or else, that like so many Academy pictures, our two divisions were accepted, but only one was hung!

A CENSUS OF LONDON BLIND CHILDREN.

Shortly after the census of this year had been taken, the inspection of the children attending the London County Council Blind Schools was made. During that work I came into contact with parents to whom questions were put as to what entry they had made in the census paper against the name of their child. The answers were so suggestive that all the parents or guardians were asked to state what entry, if any, had been made under the column marked "totally blind." At the time of the census 326 children were on the rolls of the blind schools, the returns of all were accounted for save 14, these few were either away from London, in hospital, or their parents refused information. The entries made for these children may be classified thus:—

Totally Blind	...	...	...	...	83
Partially Blind	...	..	...	...	120
No entry made	...	...	...	...	109
Total	...	...	...	...	<u>312</u>

Included with the "totally blind" are a few odd cases entered as "blind," "blind from birth"; and with the "partially blind" a few marked "nearly blind," "bad eyes," "defective sight," "cataract," "goes to blind school."

The figures on these returns are surprising. The census asked for information concerning the "totally blind" only, but parents had on their own initiative disregarded the direction of the census paper to the extent that 120 of the 312 or nearly 38% volunteered information that their children were "partially blind." Evidence of such a widespread disregard of the official prescription makes one wonder: first, what must be the entries of the rest of the Blind of the country; secondly, in what manner the official enumerators will deal with such "unofficial" returns—will it be necessary for them to do as did one of the collectors who, calling upon a woman and finding she had entered her child "partly blind," told her "*he should scratch it off*"!

Lest it be thought that this irregular action of the parents was prompted by direction let me add that there was no direction in the matter, and the nature of the returns was a complete surprise. It may be asked how then came parents, for the most part poor people, to enter their children in this particular manner? The answer to this is, undoubtedly, to be found in the notice-board affixed to every such special school—"for blind and partially blind children."

I do not think it would be possible to present any more conclusive proof of the desirability of a differentiation of the census designation of the Blind, or a more complete vindication of our deputation that pressed this differentiation upon the Registrar-General, than these figures. Very many parents felt that "totally blind" did not meet the case; they had children who were blind, but not totally blind, they wished to indicate this, and they wrote "partially blind." Had householders been officially asked to do this, all would have done what the few have done, and the census of 1911 would have secured, perhaps for the first time, an enumeration upon which reliance might be placed; as it is, there is no difficulty in showing that the new

returns will not only be valueless, but gravely misleading as evidence of the state of blindness in this country.

ANALYSIS OF THE LONDON BLIND CHILDREN.

At each inspection of the children in the London County Council Blind Schools record is made of what, if any, vision each child has. At the inspection immediately succeeding the date of the census particular care was paid to this point. From this data a new and experimental return has been made out upon the lines of the differentiation asked for by our deputation (1) Blind; (2) Partially Blind; and (3) Those children for whom no entry should be made.

This experimental return will be compared with the return actually made by the parents, for it is particularly desirable that we should know what sort of children are those who attend blind schools to the number of 109 in 312, or nearly 35%, and yet find no place in the enumeration of the Blind.

	Blind.	Partially Blind.	No Entry.
Parents' returns	... 83	120	109
My return	... 153	143	16

The difference is plain. In my return there is a heavy transfer of cases from the entry column to the Blind and partially Blind columns. This means that large numbers of parents made no entry in the census paper for children who should have been returned as blind under any reasonable classification.

The basis of the classification in my return will show the difference well. It is as follows:—

BLIND.—Those whose vision does not enable them to do more than distinguish fingers up to the distance of 1 metre. Of the 153 so returned, 59 had no perception of light, 33 had some perception of light, and 61 could detect hand movements or see fingers from 10 c.m. up to one metre.

PARTIALLY BLIND.—Those whose vision enabled them to see any letter on Snellen's test card at any distance and under the most favourable circumstances. It includes a few cases of Retinitis pigmentosa.

TO PASS AS SIGHTED.—Those whose vision exceeded 6/60. The 16 in my return include cases of high myopia, interstitial keratitis, and keratitis, which would not be in a blind school, but in a myope class were there places for them.

CHILDREN FOR WHOM PARENTS MADE NO RETURN.

These number 109, only 16 of them should, according to my examinations, have been omitted from some enumeration of the Blind. The term, "totally blind," if it means anything, means that there is no perception of light; acting strictly, according to the official direction, only 59 of these 312 children would have appeared in the census as blind. Some parents entered as "totally blind," children who had perception of light, or who could count fingers, others acting according to the strict letter of the law excluded children whose vision was no more than a bare perception of light in one eye only. I cannot show better the sort of cases that have no entry in the number of the Blind than give the "no entry" children of one school. It is typical of the rest. A census of the Blind that takes no cognisance of such a group of children as the following is no census at all :—

B.B. School (31 children). Census returns—"Blind," 3 ; "Partially blind," 13. No entry in the census paper 15.

The 15 not entered in the census paper are the following :—

Cause of Blindness.	Vision.
Microphthalmia, cong. cataract, coloboma	
of irides 	Fingers 1 ft.
Congenital cataract... 	do.
Ophthalmia neonatorum 	Fingers 3 ft.
. Interstitial keratitis (cong. syph.)... 	6/60.
Ophthalmia neonatorum 	Fingers 3 ft.
Cong. dislocation of lenses 	3/60.
Keratitis 	6/60.
Interstitial keratitis (cong. syph) 	Fingers 3 ft.
Ophthalmia neonatorum 	Fingers 1 ft.
R. interstitial keratitis, L. excised... 	Perception of light.
High myopia, wearing—18D. 	6/24 with glass.

Interstitial keratitis (cong. syph) . . .	6/60.
Ophthalmia neonatorum	R.6/60, L.p.l.
Interstitial keratitis and iritis	Fingers 1 ft.
Ophthalmia neonatorum	Perception of light.

CONCLUSIONS.

From the foregoing examination of the census returns of 1911 made on behalf of 312 scholars of London Blind Schools, and the comparison of these returns with the actual conditions of the children show:—

1. That the census returns of 1911 will be useless as an enumeration of the Blind, and dangerous for any purposes of comparison or legislation.

2. That in any future census of the Blind it is desirable to ask for information under two heads:—(1) Blind. (2) Partially Blind. That these terms are self explanatory and natural, and therefore more likely to obtain a faithful record of the state of the Blind of the country than any rigid or elaborate definition.

THIRD TRIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE BLIND, HELD AT EXETER, JULY 3rd to 8th, 1911.

The third triennial International Conference on matters relating to the Blind has come and gone, and we think our readers will agree with us in claiming for it that it has enhanced knowledge, illuminated dark problems, suggested better and improved methods of action, and above all promoted mutual understanding and goodwill among those whose lives are given up to the care and instruction of the Blind.

It was at Exeter a matter of frequent and congratulatory remark that never had there been a Conference so markedly permeated by the spirit of forbearance, and desire for mutual comprehension of each other's aims, and it seemed as if in that pleasant land friendliness became easy, and love was literally

the lord of all. To turn from the moral to the intellectual side we must also claim for this Conference that almost without exception the papers that were read in the Barnfield Hall showed a higher level of excellence than had been reached in past years, and that many of the speeches during discussion must be awarded the same praise. Thoroughness was the "note" of the Conference, and while that note sounds loud and clear in our ears we need not fear for the future, but can go on with our difficult duty in the calmness born of hope and confidence that all will at last be well with the Blind.

Among so much that was excellent, it is difficult to particularise, but we feel that all members of the Conference would wish that we should especially thank Mr. Collingwood, Hon. Sec. of the Conference and Superintendent of the Exeter Institution for the Blind, for his heavy and arduous labours extending over many months and even years, which resulted in such perfection of organisation as ensured the smooth working and efficient conduct of the proceedings. To his forethought and care also, the members owe the ease with which comfortable hotels or private apartments were secured, and the information as to how best the various points of interest in the old and historical city of Exeter could be visited in the intervals lawfully given to relaxation. The Conference indeed owes Mr. Collingwood a very great debt of gratitude, and will not easily forget his exertions on their behalf. We also wish to speak here of the great services rendered by Mr. Myers, typist of the Royal Institution for the Blind at Birmingham, and official shorthand reporter of the Conference, as to whose work we should like to quote the report given in "Progress" for August, 1911. "Mr. Myers used the new revised shorthand system, and we are glad to note that his speed has risen from 140 to 158 words per minute—a speed which any sighted stenographer would be pleased and proud to attain. The shorthand notes recorded on the narrow strip of paper extended to a length of two and a quarter miles, and contained approximately 800,000 dots. A total pressure of 160 tons was exerted by Mr. Myers to emboss these notes."

These facts speak for themselves, and the Conference is fully aware of the value of the work done by Mr. Myers.

We are sure also that our readers would wish us to express the pleasure given to the Conference by their kind entertainers, the Mayor and Mayoress of Exeter, Mr. and the Misses Heberden, and Dr. and Miss Davy. The civic reception was held at the Royal Albert Memorial, where the Mayor and Mayoress were assisted in receiving their guests by the Sheriff of Exeter and Mrs. Owen. An enjoyable concert was given by the string band of the 3rd Devon Regiment, and piano duets and songs were well rendered by several blind artistes, a most delightful evening being thus spent. This entertainment was succeeded a day or two later by a garden party kindly given by Mr. and the Misses Heberden at Elmfield House, where the members of the Conference enjoyed an hour or two of much needed rest, and where it would be hard to say which was most lovely, the garden or the weather. The same might truthfully be said of Dr. and Miss Davy's evening party, held at their residence, Southernhay House, to give the prosaic and work-a-day name, but it might have been equally well described as the Earthly Paradise. The grounds were exquisitely illuminated, and our kind host and hostess had secured a moon to match, which with the sweet strains of music from the band of the Royal Marines from Plymouth issuing from some hidden grove, made their guests seriously incline to the belief that they had somehow or other wandered into Fairyland.

On the Tuesday evening a very remarkable concert, organised by Mr. Platt, took place in the Barnfield Hall, and was well attended, the Mayor and Mayoress of Exeter, among others, being present. It consisted largely of music by blind composers, rendered by blind artistes, and from "those who knew" the remark was frequently heard, "this might be St. James's Hall."

Other features of the Conference were interesting lectures by Capt. Peirson-Webber on Poultry Culture, one on the Comedy of Daily Life, by Mr. H. C. Preece, travelling secretary to the British and Foreign Blind Association, and demonstrations in massage, by Mr. William McKechnie, a blind masseur.

On July 2nd, the Sunday preceding the opening of the Conference, several of the blind Clergy of the Church of England and blind Nonconformist ministers occupied the pulpits of the various Churches and Chapels of the city, the Rev. C. E. Bolam, of S. Mary Magdalen, Lincoln, preaching at the Cathedral at evening Service. The organ at a large number of places of worship was also taken by blind organists, and the Voluntary at the close of afternoon Service in the Cathedral was played by Mr. T. G. Osborne, F.R.C.O., of Oxford. A very appropriate Sermon was preached at the morning Service in the Cathedral by the Dean of Exeter, on the miracle of Christ restoring sight to the Blind.

On Monday morning, July 3rd, the Mayor of Exeter opened an exhibition at Queen's Hall, Paris Street, of the various industries carried on by the Blind in many countries. The Mayor attended in state, accompanied by the Mayoress, the Sheriff of Exeter, their chaplains, the aldermen, and the town clerk. Mr. S. C. Snow, President of the West of England Institution for the Blind, was in the Chair, and the Mayor then welcomed the Conference to Exeter in a very cordial and sympathetic speech that plainly showed that his Worship had been at pains to inform himself as to the current problems of dealing with the Blind for their betterment, more especially the course to be taken with regard to ophthalmia neonatorum, and the finding sufficient employment for those blind persons who had been trained to some handicraft or profession.

The Exhibition was of a really remarkable character, and shewed very clearly how great a step forward had been made in the proficiency attained by the Blind in the various handicrafts and manufactures carried on by them. Before passing more strictly to the business of the Conference, we should like to draw attention to the unusually large number of blind members who were present and took an active part in the proceedings, a circumstance which gave general pleasure and satisfaction.

In the afternoon the Conference was formally opened at the Barnfield Hall by the Dean of Exeter in the enforced absence of Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, President of the Conference, owing to

the serious illness of Lady Acland. The Dean spoke touchingly of his thankfulness in welcoming to Exeter those engaged in the truly Christian work of caring for the Blind, and referred to his having for 13 years had the sad, though blessed privilege of ministering to a dear mother totally blind, yet who never once during that long period of darkness had he heard murmur against the will of God. He hoped that the papers to be read and the discussions thereon would greatly help on the cause they all had at heart, and especially mentioned the important subject of Libraries for the Blind, and also those of education and of aftercare.

Miss E. W. Austin, Secretary to the National Lending Library for the Blind, Queen's Road, Bayswater, W., then read an important paper upon "Libraries for the Blind," in which she advocated with much enthusiasm and considerable knowledge of detail the establishment of a National Library for the Blind, probably in London as most central, but used by all parts of the country, and perhaps in time subsidized by the Government. Instead of interfering with local libraries it would be a help to them by distributing valuable books that the locals might be unable to circulate, and by the annual publication of an universal catalogue showing what literature had appeared in raised type, and where to get it. The public libraries should be encouraged in every way to provide their local Blind with literature, and at their backs would be the National Library, upon which they could draw for their readers. In fact, it might become a sort of British Museum Library for the Blind, and she hoped that the Conference would approve the scheme.

The discussion was opened by Miss E. M. Bainbrigge, Secretary to the London Home Teaching Society for the Blind, who differed considerably from Miss Austin's point of view, and deprecated anything that might conceivably interfere with home-teaching, which she considered of vital importance to the Blind. She agreed however in co-operation in the circulation of literature.

Other speakers continued the discussion, notably Dr. R. C. Moon, Secretary to the Home Teaching Society for the Blind,

Philadelphia, who in an interesting speech warmly advocated the furtherance of Miss Austin's scheme, and the upshot of the discussion was the decision of the Conference to appoint a Committee to deal with the subject, and to send a message by Miss Austin to the Conference of representatives of Public Libraries to be held at Perth, thanking them for their interest in the Blind.

The second session of the Conference opened on Tuesday morning with greetings from the colonial and foreign delegates representing their respective countries—Germany, Cape Colony, Sweden, Russia, Japan, Ontario, Pittsburg, U.S.A., etc. The Sheriff of Exeter, in the absence of the Bishop, took the chair, and the Rev. St. Clare Hill read an able paper on "Teachers of the Blind, their training, qualifications, and reasonable prospects of employment." He hoped that the day was not far distant when teachers training for blind schools would enjoy the same advantages as the State extended to those training for the ordinary schools. He feared that congestion in the labour market was a rock ahead, as their teachers became increasingly well qualified, and deplored the possibility of no place being found for competent blind teachers, who in most cases showed more enthusiasm and comprehension of the children's needs, and consequently met as a rule with more success. He mentioned the suggestion that had been made of a bureau where employer and seeker after employment might meet to discuss matters. In this special work great stress was laid upon the working capabilities and the devotion of the teacher, and he trusted that some scheme of pensioning those workers who had given of their best to the State might be devised, for surely the capable up-bringing of the young Blind deserved to be called a gift to the State, and those who made it, should be treated with the same consideration as workers in any Civil Service department.

Mr. W. H. Illingworth, Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester, opened the discussion, and said he thought the existing codes and regulations took it too much for granted that all children were turned out of the same mould, and wished they might revert to the old pupil teacher system of five years

apprenticeship. At present there were far too many teachers not in the least qualified to teach, who had simply taken up the profession as a respectable way of earning their living, but had no heart in it. The best teachers must be paid at the best rate, otherwise it was unreasonable to expect to get them. Several speakers afterwards contributed to an animated discussion.

The Chairman at the afternoon session was Mr. C. J. Ross, and the paper read was "A Retrospect of the more recent Musical Education of the Blind and Suggestion as to the Future," by Mr. H. C. Warrilow, Organist of S. Barnabas, Oxford, who read his paper in Braille. He expressed great satisfaction at the much increased interest taken in musical examinations by the various Institutions for the Blind, and the greater facilities they provided for those pupils who wished to study for them, and to obtain a good degree to help them forward in the musical profession. The percentage of success among these pupils was most remarkable. He urged the importance to students of hearing thoroughly good music, and also at a certain stage of proficiency, of their playing before people as much as possible, at first in the Institution, and later on, before the public. He hoped that the Braille music which was in great demand, such as standard works and others, would be stereotyped.

Mr. Harry E. Platt, Professor of Music at the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, was the opener of the discussion, and hoped to see an universal catalogue of Braille music made. Blind organists could be very greatly helped by the Clergy if the latter could make up their minds to do it, as he thought they should. The motto of the Conference was "Help the blind to help themselves."

At the close of a long discussion, a presentation of a massive silver tray and a cheque for £100 was made to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Secretary of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, and a silver teapot to his wife. The tray bore the following inscription: "This silver tray and a cheque for one hundred pounds presented to Henry Josiah Wilson, Esq., F.C.T.B., by numerous friends, well-wishers and colleagues, as a mark of their affection and esteem, and in recognition of his valuable and unsparing labours

in the interests of the Blind. Also a silver teapot to Mrs. Wilson, as a mark of appreciation of the whole-hearted sympathy with which she has seconded and supported the efforts of her husband. July, 1911."

The Rev. St. Clare Hill took the Chair on the occasion, and an address, read by Mr. W. H. Illingworth, and a roll containing the names of the subscribers, were handed to Mr. Wilson, after which Lady Campbell made the presentation, and Mr. Wilson briefly replied to the effect that it gave him and his wife the deepest pleasure to accept not only the handsome gifts, but all they represented, love and kindness from their friends, which they could never value too highly, and which must always be one of their most treasured possessions.

The whole of Wednesday was given up to reading and discussion of a very important paper by Mr. Henry Stainsby, Secretary General of the British and Foreign Blind Association. In the morning session the Chair was taken by Mr. Henry Gadd, Vice-President of the West of England Institution for the Blind, and in the afternoon by Mr. S. C. Snow, President of that Institution. Mr. Stainsby's paper was devoted to the "After care, and the better and more general employment of the Blind," and in it he said with impressive emphasis that the first essential towards obtaining good employment for their pupils in their subsequent career was to make sure that the training they received in their respective Institutions was of the very best possible, for as a matter of fact "after care" should begin long before the pupil left school. His trade or profession ought to be chosen at 14, or even earlier, and his progress carefully watched during instruction. There were many kinds of help available for the blind worker setting out in life, such as grants from Gardner's Trust, etc., but success also largely depended on the worker's own efforts, and he had seen many failures through want of this necessary effort being made. The average weekly wage of the blind workshop employee showed an average of 12/- for men and 9/6 for women, and from investigations made some seven or eight years ago it was found that home workers earnings were only 6/2 a week. The question of augmentation of wages required far

more attention than it had received. It had been suggested that the State and Municipalities should make a capitation grant of £10 per worker to augment wages, but till such grants could be claimed by law, funds must be raised in other ways. Guardians differed very greatly, under the existing *permissive* laws, in their treatment of the blind question, and it must be evident to all that for these laws to have an all-round beneficent effect they must be compulsory. Should state aid once be established most of their worst difficulties would be over. He hoped that the trade competition between Institutions would cease, and that a large central showroom for the sale of goods made by the Blind might be established, and also pointed out ways of benefiting them too numerous to be quoted here, but all excellent and practicable.

The discussion was opened by Mr. H. W. P. Pine, Midland Institution for the Blind, Nottingham, who joined Mr. Stainsby in advocating workshops as one of the best forms of after care, but sounded a note of warning as to the danger of doing for the Blind that which they should do for themselves, and thus causing a want of self-reliance and independence. Much might be done by the Municipalities and public authorities as to the better employment of the Blind, and much also by educating the public as to the needs of the Blind in getting employment, and by the influence that could be exerted by the Unions of societies for the Blind in this direction.

As before said, the discussion was carried on by a great number of speakers, and proved to be one of the most interesting and important of the Conference.

On Thursday morning Lady Campbell, Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, read a most valuable paper upon training the Blind in the requirements of Social Life at home and in society, and the best methods of securing it. Mr. John Stocker, Chairman of the Exeter Education Committee, took the chair in the unavoidable absence of Lady Meath, and before the reading of the paper was commenced, it was decided, upon the motion of Mr. H. J. Wilson, to ask Mr. Yoshimoto, the Japanese delegate, to convey the greetings of the

Conference to the Conference on the Blind shortly to take place at Tokyo.

Lady Campbell said she thought parents and teachers as a rule set too low a standard before blind children, and from mistaken kindness shrink from enforcing some point of good manners again and again, as is done in the case of sighted children. The foundation of good breeding is kindness, and any teaching on the subject must deal largely with conduct, and have for its basis character building. "The golden rule contains the last word on manners as it does on most other laws of living." Parents and teachers must try to realise how much normal children owe to the marvellous imitative faculty of childhood, and that blind children must be carefully taught many things that their brothers and sisters seem to do by instinct. She had received many replies to her questionnaire, especially from blind people, whose experience gave much weight to their answers, urging the importance to the Blind that they should acquire a good address, and good manners, and carefully eliminate the awkward mannerisms and blunt and sometimes too self assertive conduct that often created a prejudice against them as a class—cleanliness and neatness in person and dress were also mentioned as most important factors in the struggle for employment. Self absorption and introspection were among the dangers to which the Blind were peculiarly liable, and they must by every possible means be encouraged to take a healthy interest in persons and things outside themselves. The many blind men and women who have won their way to positions useful to the community should inspire blind pupils with the belief that each can help to remove the public idea that the Blind are a helpless class. To overcome the prejudice that prevails against their employment they must add to their technical, literary, or musical attainments a manly bearing, gentlemanly conduct, and upright character.

Mr. A. Siddall Home Teacher, Rochdale, opened the discussion by remarking on the true friendship of those who would tell the Blind of their faults. Ability was hampered and sometimes rendered almost useless by bad manners or solecisms that offended those who came in contact with them, and children

should be taught manners equally when they were at play or at work.

At the close of a very interesting discussion it was unanimously resolved that, with Lady Campbell's permission, the paper should be printed, and circulated among the Schools.

At the afternoon session the Chair was taken by Mr. Henry J. Wilson, and the following Reports were made: the Conference Committee by Mr. C. M. Collingwood, the National Employment Committee by Mr. H. W. P. Pine, the Prevention of Blindness Committee by Mr. C. M. Collingwood, and the Pensions Committee by Mr. W. H. Tate, the respective Hon. Secs. It was agreed that the next Conference should be held in London in 1914, and the following Committees were appointed, *Conference Committee* consisting of 10 sighted and 5 blind members, viz.: Miss Austin, Sir Francis Campbell, Messrs. C. M. Collingwood, W. H. Dixon, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. W. H. Illingworth, A. B. Norwood, H. W. P. Pine, M. Priestley, Dr. Ranger, Messrs. A. Siddall, H. Stainsby, W. M. Stone, W. H. Warrilow, and H. J. Wilson. *National Employment Committee* (15 members) Messrs. C. M. Collingwood, J. E. Gregory, W. Hartley, J. Hewitt, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. W. H. Illingworth, C. Macdonald, T. H. Martin, A. B. Norwood, H. W. P. Pine, M. Priestley, H. Stainsby, G. Stott, W. H. Thurman, and H. J. Wilson. *Libraries Committee*: 12 members (8 sighted and 4 blind, with Miss E. W. Austin, Hon. Sec., a member ex officio), Miss E. M. Bainbrigge, Rev. C. E. Bolam, Lady Campbell, Miss M. E. Comber, Mr. W. H. Dixon, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Miss Heywood, Miss Moon, Dr. Ranger, Messrs. H. Royston, W. M. Stone and H. J. Wilson.

Sir. Robert Newman presided over Friday morning's session of the Conference, at which a paper was read by Mr. Alrik Lundberg (Stockholm), President of the Swedish Federation of the Blind, on the General Pensioning of the Blind by the raising of National Funds. The reading of this paper made a great impression upon the Conference, not only by its intrinsic merit, which was great, but by the very remarkable powers of memory demonstrated by Mr. Lundberg, who repeated the paper

throughout, though in, to him, a foreign tongue, quite faultlessly. He regarded the State as the supreme protector of the unfortunate, and pointed out the failure of parochial relief to be just in distribution, or sufficient in amount, and it often demoralised those who even in early life were obliged to enter the workhouse. He suggested a national lottery, on a scale that would give every blind person a pension of £13 a year, or in countries where public feeling was opposed to lotteries, a national subscription under Government as the ultimate administrators of the fund. Another method, suggested by Herr Schmidt at the Blind Conference at Vienna in 1910, was that of an obligatory blindness insurance, the premium to be paid by parents at rates according to their financial position.

Mr. Tate, of Bradford, who opened the discussion, advocated the granting of pensions to the needy Blind rather than an universal system of pensions.

Mr. H. J. Wilson, Gardner's Trust, pointed out that lotteries in England were illegal, and contrary to the national mind. Nor had he any hope of a national subscription under Government, as every class of unfortunates, such as the dumb or the feeble minded, would have an equal claim. He did not regard blindness in itself as sufficient qualification for a pension, unless conduct, thrift, etc., were taken into consideration.

At the end of the discussion the following resolution was proposed and seconded :—

“The Third Triennial International Conference on the Blind (Exeter, 1911), expresses its warm and sincere sympathy with the proposition for ameliorating by means of uniform and general pensions the condition of the indigent Blind, at present all too unsatisfactory and unsafe, and urges upon the respective Governments the desirability of their co-operation in taking necessary measures to gain a long wished for solution of this important problem.”

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Friday afternoon's session concluded the Conference of 1911, when Dr. H. Davy, the well-known physician, took the Chair at the reading of a paper on “Ophthalmia Neonatorum,

or Blindness of the New-born," by Dr Reid (County Medical Officer of Staffordshire). The Mayor of Exeter was present. Dr. Reid being unfortunately obliged to give evidence in the Law Courts on that particular day, his paper was read by Mr. C. M. Collingwood, Secretary to the Conference. Dr. Reid animadverted strongly on the ignorance and neglect on the part of many midwives, more especially the untrained ones still allowed to practise, that made this disease far more general than it need ever have been. With proper care of the infant, cases of ophthalmia need scarcely ever occur, and when they did happen, quite simple means, if used at once, ought to cure in nearly all cases. Notification should be made compulsory, and medical attendance and skilled nursing provided by the authorities where necessary. In the following discussion the Conference was unanimously of opinion that the disease should be made compulsorily notifiable, as in Germany, and a resolution was passed to that effect, and also that the early notification of Births Act be generally adopted. It is satisfactory to know that as a direct outcome of the Conference, this disease was made compulsorily notifiable last month in Exeter.

Those members of the Conference who were able to remain in Exeter over the Saturday made one of the most beautiful excursions in that beautiful country by going to the quaint old town of Totnes, "personally conducted" by Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Collingwood, and thence by steamer down the Dart to Dartmouth and Kingswear, a trip of which it is next to impossible to point out the most exquisite feature; river, woods, and surrounding country all being of indescribable loveliness, ending in the noble harbour of Dartmouth, with its view of open sea beyond, seen as through a water gate. This was a truly fitting finale to the Conference of 1911, and as its members departed to their widely separate homes they must have felt how greatly Devonshire had added to their store of happy memories, not only of natural beauty, but of mutual and helpful friendship.

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All communications for the next number must be sent on or before March 18th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. It is with much regret that we have to report the death on October 10th of the Rev. Arthur John Dexter, Vice-Principal of the Missionary College at Dorchester. He was educated at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester and at Oxford, where he held a Gardner Scholarship and also the Fawcett Scholarship. He graduated with 3rd Class Honours in Classics, and was ordained in 1900 by the Bishop of St. Albans to St. Matthew's, Victoria Docks. He took his M.A. degree in 1907. We cull the following from an obituary notice in "The Guardian" of October 20th :—

"During a course of treatment at the Oxford Eye Hospital he was stricken with an affection of the heart which, by an unexpected seizure, proved fatal.

Of his short ministry the first seven years were spent at St. Matthew's, Victoria Docks, and the remaining four years at Dorchester Missionary College. In both spheres of work his life will leave an impression that will not quickly be forgotten. A man of remarkable ability and singular generosity of nature, he was keenly interested in social questions; in spite of his lack of eyesight, he kept well abreast with modern theological thought,

and had remarkable gifts as a teacher. But it was more by the attraction of his personality that he obtained the position in the affections of those with whom he came in contact, both as a parish priest and as a tutor. During the last two years of his life he added to his College duties the care of the small parish of Toot Baldon, for which, owing to the smallness of the stipend, no Incumbent could be found. It seemed to all who knew him that without the almost total blindness from which he suffered during his University and ministerial career he might have filled a much more prominent position in the service of the Church."

2 All those present at the Exeter Conference and others who knew him will hear with extreme regret of the sudden death of Mr. Patrick, of New York, on November 18th. He had been blind for only 11 years, and used to refer to himself as young in blindness. His conversation was marked by a ready wit, and the example he set had an extraordinary influence over other blind persons. There are numerous stories of persons who, having gone blind, had almost despaired of their lot until they met him. He experienced great difficulty in coming over from New York to the Conference, as one steamship company after another refused to take a blind man unescorted. At last he had an interview with the superintendent of one company, and said to him, "Sir, I have often crossed the Atlantic with my friends when my steamer had men on board who were blind drunk. They were not refused a passage. Where is the logic of refusing to take me, when I am blind sober?" After this he had his way and came over by himself, and everybody was glad to welcome him at the Conference.

3. The Rev. Greville Colin Pope, late student of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester has been appointed Vicar of Cornworthy, Devon. He went to Exeter College, Oxford, where he held a Gardner Scholarship, and he took his B.A. degree with Honours in Modern History, and afterwards studied at Wycliffe Hall. He was ordained in

1902 by the late Bishop of Llandaff, and held his first curacy at Llandeuvod, Monmouthshire. For the last five years he has been curate at St. Mark's, Deptford, and on leaving he received numerous gifts from the parishioners, men's club, &c., which showed how much his services were appreciated. He took his M.A. degree in 1903.

4. Mr. Herbert A. Roberts was ordained deacon at Michaelmas last by the Bishop of Bangor. Mr. Roberts was at the School for the Blind in Swansea, and from there passed to the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester. In 1907 he entered Lampeter College and took his B.A. degree. He held Gardner Scholarships both at Worcester and Lampeter. He has been licensed to a curacy at Port Madoc.

5. The next examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind will be held at Birmingham on May 21st, 22nd, and 23rd. Intending candidates should apply at once to Mr. Henry Stainsby, Hon. Registrar, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W.

6. The meeting of the next Conference on the Blind, to be held in London in 1914, is tentatively fixed for the week beginning July 20th. It was thought that that would probably be the best time for superintendents and especially the teachers in the London County Council Schools for the Blind, as it would be just at the beginning of the holidays. It is very difficult to fix a time to suit all, but suggestions for a date, when more superintendents, teachers, and others would be likely to attend than on July 20th, can be sent to Mr. Stainsby, Hon. Sec. to the Conference Committee, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W. Also, the Committee are prepared to consider any subjects that may be suggested for discussion. Every effort will be made to make this Conference, as it is to be held in London, a most attractive one, and it is intended to organize it on a larger scale than previous ones, and to induce every Institution and Society for the Blind in the United Kingdom to take part in it. The exhibition of work made by the Blind will be a special feature, with demonstrations of the various industries.

7. The Union of Unions for the Blind has issued its leaflet No. 1, called "Aftercare for the Blind." It has been most kindly drawn up by Miss B. Taylor, 39, Sylvan Road, Upper Norwood, S.E., from whom copies can be obtained, priced 1½d. each, post free. The suggestions are excellent, and give most valuable information on this all important subject. It is sad to know that the training of many young people is wasted because there is no one ready to give them a helping hand and advice when they leave school at 16 years of age. The short paper naturally touches only the fringe of a very large and difficult subject, but it will certainly make people realize the urgent necessity of doing something at this crucial stage in the life of blind young persons.

8. In the "Outlook for the Blind," in the account of the Convention at Overbrook, it is stated that "Dr. E. Stagg Whitin, Secretary of the National Committee on Prison Labour, brought out effectively the ruinous competition that now exists between products made in prisons and those in many of our workshops for the Blind, and urged this conference to send a resolution to the Conference of Governors, adding our voice to those of others who are urging that this state of affairs be properly adjusted."

This complaint is not peculiar to the United States. The Blind in the United Kingdom have suffered very seriously from the competition in goods made in prisons. And, moreover, they are suffering at the present time, as some flagrant cases have recently been brought to our notice, about which we hope to hear more anon. The prisoners ought to be provided with labour, but as they have sight they are capable of making many things which the Blind cannot make.

9. A meeting of the Committee appointed to organize the next Conference, to be held in London in 1914, was held in London on November 11th, when there were present—Miss Austin, Sir F. J. Campbell, Messrs. Collingwood, Dixon, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. Illingworth, Norwood, Pine, Priestley, Stainsby, Stone, Warrilow, and Wilson.

It was proposed by Mr. Collingwood, seconded by Mr. Pine, and resolved unanimously that Mr. Wilson be elected Chairman.

It was proposed by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Miss Austin, and resolved unanimously that Mr. Stainsby be appointed Hon. Secretary.

The appointment of an Hon. Treasurer was left in abeyance.

Mr. Collingwood, Hon. Sec. of the Exeter Conference, read an interesting and full report on the Conference, and referred to an unfortunate miscount in the votes at the election of the Conference Committee with regard to one candidate. He also presented the audited financial statement, which was considered very satisfactory, and stated that the printing of the official report of the Conference was far advanced, and that it would probably be ready before the end of the month.

Letters regretting their inability to attend the meeting were read from Dr. Ranger and Mr. Siddall.

The question of settling the date of the Conference gave rise to much discussion, and ultimately it was tentatively fixed for the week beginning July 20th, 1914, as the date most likely to suit the greatest number of persons. Many other matters were talked over, but it was thought too early to come to any definite decision about them, such as election of Presidents, Vice-Presidents, suitable subjects for papers, appointment of local committees, central hall for the meetings, &c., &c. It was agreed that there should be an exhibition, and it is hoped that it will be on a very large scale, and that there will be demonstrations of all the various employments in which the Blind are engaged.

10. The first meeting of the National Employment Committee, elected at the Exeter Conference, was held in London on November 11th, when there were present—Messrs. Collingwood, Gregory, Hartley, Illingworth, McDonald, Martin, Norwood, Pine, Priestley, Stainsby, Stott, Thurman, and Wilson.

Mr. Wilson and Mr. Pine were unanimously elected Chairman and Hon. Sec. respectively. Letters were read from Mr. Hewitt and the Rev. St. Clare Hill regretting their inability to be present.

The Chairman read a letter from Dr. Moon in regard to massage by the Blind. The Hon. Sec. made a report on the circulars which had been sent to Local Authorities in regard to the employment of the Blind.

A new Bill, drafted by Counsel, for the technical training and employment of the Blind, was presented and considered paragraph by paragraph, and generally approved.

11. A meeting of the Libraries Committee, appointed at the Conference, was held in London on October 13th, when there were present—Miss Austin (Hon. Sec.), Miss Bainbrigge, Lady Campbell, Miss M. Comber, Miss I. M. Heywood, Miss Moon, Messrs. Dixon and Hamley, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. Niederhausern, Royston, and Wilson (Chairman).

A sample enquiry card for the Union catalogue, prepared by the Sub-Committee, was submitted and approved. A draft scheme of Federation of the Libraries, drafted also by the Sub-Committee, was carefully discussed and amended, and deferred for further consideration at the next meeting. The Committee were of opinion that the first step to take should be to make a catalogue of all known books in raised types in the United Kingdom.

12. The new Workshop for the Blind, in Museum Avenue, Park Street, Bristol, was opened on December 13th, by the Lord Mayor of Bristol. The building is of five floors and well-adapted for its purpose. There are over seventy workers, including the women who used to be employed at 65, Park Street. Our readers will remember that the school, formerly in Park Street, has been removed to Westbury-on-Trym.

13. The Committee appointed at the Conference held in London on March 25th, 1911, to consider the whole question of

a better provision for the Blind, and if necessary to draft a new Blind Aid Bill, have now completed their work.

The Committee have given very careful consideration to the Bills previously drafted by the National Employment Committee, and by the National League of the Blind, and to numerous suggestions from other sources.

After reviewing the whole situation, and taking the opinion of Counsel on several important matters, the Committee decided to draft a new Bill embodying principles which would probably be acceptable to all parties concerned.

The objects of this new Bill may be stated as follows :—

“To provide for the *technical education* of the Blind by the
 “establishment and equipment of technical schools
 “and institutions ; for the *employment* of the Blind by the
 “establishment and equipment of institutions and
 “workshops ; for *grants* in respect of augmentation of
 “wages earned by persons so employed ; and for the
 “provision of the *expenses* of blind persons at institu-
 “tions or hostels while under technical instruction or
 “employment.”

If the provisions of the Bill do not meet with full approval of some Institutions or friends of the Blind, it must be remembered that such a measure must necessarily be drafted within reasonable limits to induce the Government to accept it, otherwise the proposal would be rejected, or if presented to Parliament, would never get beyond the first reading. Every detail of the Bill has been reviewed and revised in the presence of Solicitors and Counsel, and the Committee now strongly recommend it as a clear and equitable measure, which, if passed into law, would make good provision for a large number of industrious and deserving blind people, many of whom have been trained for active service, but at present cannot obtain any employment whatever. There is reason to believe that the Government is anxious to improve the condition of the Blind, and that if unani- mously adopted by the existing Institutions and Societies, such a measure as the one now proposed might be favourably received. The Government Departments have already shewn a laudable

desire to assist in solving this difficult problem, by placing orders for goods which the Blind can make, with several of the existing Institutions. As a result of the efforts of the National Employment Committee, large contracts for brooms and baskets are now being executed by the Bradford and Nottingham Institutions for the Blind. This practical sympathy in the cause of the Blind is very highly appreciated. There is every reason to suppose that such assistance could be extended if unanimity of action could be secured by some well conceived plan such as the provisions in this new Blind Aid Bill.

The Bill does not make any provision for Pensions, because, after careful enquiry and consideration, the Committee were of opinion that the question of employment was so important and far reaching that it was advisable not to overload the measure with the question of Pensions. This matter might be more favourably considered when the problem of employment has been satisfactorily solved.

The Committee are now arranging for another meeting to be held in London, similar to the one held on March 25th, to which all Institutions and Societies in Great Britain will be invited to send representatives. The meeting should be well attended, and every possible consideration and support should be given to the project so that it may be carried to a successful issue.

14. On Tuesday, October 24th, a well-attended and representative gathering was held at the Guildhall, Cambridge, by invitation of the Mayor and Mayoress. The objects of the meeting were two-fold, viz., to establish a Society for the Blind in Cambridge, and to hear an account of the work of the British and Foreign Blind Association. The meeting was held at the suggestion of Mr. H. M. Taylor, F.R.S., who, since he lost his sight, has worked most assiduously to promote the cause of the Blind, especially in connection with the B. and F. B. A., of the Council of which he is a member; also as founder and one of the Managers of the Embossed Scientific Books Fund. To the regret of all, Mr. Taylor was prevented from being present owing

to illness. The Mayor presided, and called upon Mr. Henry Stainsby, Secretary-General of the B. and F. B. A., to give an account of what has been accomplished for the Blind, especially by that Association. Resolutions approving the formation of a new Society for Cambridge, and appointing a President and Committee to carry on the work, were unanimously carried, the principal speakers being the Regius Professor of Physic (Sir T. Clifford Allbutt, K.C.B., M.D., F.R.S.); the Master of Trinity College, and the President of Queen's College. A large number of blind persons were present. Demonstrations were given by blind experts, viz., Mr. W. Wolstenholme, Mus. Bac., and Mr. Herbert Warmington, M.A. (organ solos); Mr. Ernest E. W. Littlewood (singing and reading); and Mr. M. J. Myers (shorthand and typewriting).

15. A drawing-room meeting was held at Bournemouth on October 28th, at the kind invitation of the Misses Rooper at their house, when a Blind Aid Society for Bournemouth and District was started. The Mayor presided, and after Mr. F. Lattey had explained the objects of the Society, an address was given by Mr. Guy M. Campbell, of the Royal Normal College. He was followed by Dr. Mary Jeremy, who gave a valuable address on the prevention of blindness. A Committee was formed, and Mr. F. Lattey was elected Hon. Sec., and Miss E. Rooper, Hon. Treasurer.

16. Workshops for the Blind have recently been opened in East London. The Institution consists of: (a) Members, viz., those blind persons who have been duly admitted by the Committee to participation in the benefits of the Institution. (b) Pupils, viz., those who after application, have been admitted to the Workshops either free or by payment. Members enjoy the following privileges:—To buy the raw materials for their crafts at wholesale prices; to have at all times the advice and assistance of the officials of the Institution; to use the library (when in existence); to have their goods sold for them when possible, subject to a discount of 10 per cent., which will be used to

enable further sales to be made and for no other purpose ; to attend lectures, etc., free, if and when got up for the Institution.

Pupils are taught Trades and Handicrafts, and when efficient, they can apply for Membership, and if elected, will enjoy the above privileges.

Applications must be made to the Hon. Sec., 60, Great Portland Street, or at the Given-Wilson Institution, London Road, Plaistow, E., which has placed suitable premises at the disposal of the Workshops, rent free.

All members and pupils must reside in East London. There is no religious test.

17. In our last number, paragraph No. 25, we referred to a recently opened depôt for the sale of goods made by the Blind, and we are pleased to hear from Miss Hastings that it has proved more successful than was anticipated. During the first nine weeks over £27 were taken, and the man in charge has been so busy with orders and repairs that the chairs brought to be caned are given out to a blind girl. About 20 men and women send work to the depôt, and in the first two months basket work was sold for one blind man amounting to over £6. This is an excellent beginning, and we wish all success to this laudable enterprise at Wimbledon.

18. Mr. C. F. F. Campbell, well-known to many of our readers, and editor of the "Outlook for the Blind," has removed from Pittsburgh to Columbus, Ohio, in order to develop the work for the Blind in that State, but we regret to state a cablegram has come with the sad news that Mrs. Campbell died suddenly of pneumonia at Columbus, on November 20th. We feel sure that our readers will heartily sympathize with Mr. Charles Campbell in his sudden and severe loss. Mrs. Campbell was at one time head of the training department of the Massachusetts Normal Art School, where she had been an apt pupil. She married Mr. Campbell in 1903, when he was the executive agent of the Massachusetts Association for Promoting the Interests of the Blind, and into this new work she threw her energies

enthusiastically. In preparing lantern slides for use in his lectures she rendered valuable service, and during the first year of their married life their joint work on behalf of the Blind was presented to 40,000 people.

They conceived and started the "Outlook for the Blind," a publication which is now the leading one devoted to the interests of the Blind.

19. The Misses Hodgkin, editors of "Santa Lucia," have removed from Zenda, Balcombe, to Park House, Kew, London, S.W.

20. The following books have recently been published in Moon type:—"The Rosary," by Mrs. Barclay, in 7 vols. "A Tale of Two Cities," by Charles Dickens, in 8 vols. "Far in the Forest," by S. Weir Mitchell, in 5 vols. "The Worth of Service," by Leigh Mitchell Hodges. "The Idylls of the King," by Alfred Tennyson, as follows: "The Coming of Arthur," "Lancelot and Elaine," "The Holy Grail," and "Guinevere." The expense has chiefly been met from a fund raised by Mrs. Webster Fox of Philadelphia. Isaiah, in Tamil, is now printed in Moon type.

21. It has been proposed that the Braille Bi-Monthly Religious Magazine, "Channels of Blessing," now in the thirteenth year of publication, should also be issued in the Moon type.

If this edition is published it will be embossed by the Moon Society, Brighton, and comprise 75 large pages. If not less than 100 copies are issued bi-monthly, the price per copy, including postage, will be in the British Isles, three shillings; beyond, three shillings and tenpence. If the issue is less than 100 copies the price will be considerably higher.

Libraries, Societies, etc., can be supplied with any quantity of the Braille edition at ninepence per copy, in the British Isles, or one shilling if sent abroad.

Promises of orders and subscriptions should be sent as soon as possible to Mr. Edwin Norris (Managing Editor), Ashcroft, All Saints' Avenue, Margate.

22. Just on going to press, we received the programme of the laying of the cornerstone of the Settlement House for the Blind in New York by President Taft, and also accounts of the ceremony. The programme has an effective and well-drawn illustration of "Love and Justice, the blind guardians of the Blind." Representatives from most of the Institutions for the Blind in the various States and several thousand spectators were present. Amongst the speakers were President Taft, Mr. Choate, and Miss Winifred Holt, the Secretary and Founder of the New York Association for the Blind, who has been foremost in this new scheme. We hope to give in the next number extracts from her graceful and sympathetic speech.

THE UNIONS OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

The third annual meeting of the Union of Unions for the Blind was held at 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W. on the 14th of October.

There were present from the Metropolitan Union, Miss Bennett, Miss B. Taylor, Mr. G. Campbell and Mr. H. J. Wilson; from the Midland Union, Miss J. A. Merivale, Mr. S. M. Burrows and Mr. H. Pine; from the North of England Union, Miss I. Heywood, Miss M. Sadgrove, Mr. F. J. Munby and Mr. A. Siddall; and from the North West Union, Miss M. Comber, Miss B. Griffith and Archdeacon Barber; Mr. Stuart Johnson, Hon. Treasurer, was also present.

Regrets for inability to attend the meeting were received from Mr. Thurman and Mr. Collingwood.

On the motion of Mr. Pine, seconded by Archdeacon Barber, Mr. Wilson was unanimously elected Chairman.

In thanking the Members for his election, Mr. Wilson referred to the great progress which had been made in securing

compulsory notification of Ophthalmia Neonatorum. He also mentioned the fact that the Hospitals throughout the Metropolitan Union had consented to allow notices to appear drawing attention to the existence of the Union, and that a booklet written by Mr. Stuart Johnson, entitled "The Blind Comrade," would be of immense use in explaining to people willing to help the Blind how that could best be done. Against these promising facts were the unsatisfactory ones of the Census, where in consequence of the returns being asked only for those who were totally blind, the statistics would be quite useless; and of the Eastern Union not yet being in working order. With regard to that Union, the Chairman mentioned that Miss Taylor and he had attended a Meeting at the Deanery, Ely, and that they were hopeful that a good start would soon be made.

On the motion of Mr. Pine, seconded by Mr. Munby, Mr. Stuart Johnson was unanimously re-elected Hon. Treasurer.

On the motion of the same two members, Miss Taylor and Mr. Guy Campbell were unanimously re-elected Hon. Secretaries.

The draft Constitution was carefully discussed and amended.

Attention was drawn to the fact that the Guardians throughout the country did not allow a sufficient sum for the Blind. In some instances, a blind person received only half as much as a seeing person. It was considered that this condition of affairs should, if possible, be altered. On the motion of Mr. Siddall, seconded by Mr. Munby, a Sub-Committee consisting of Miss Heywood, Miss Taylor, Messrs. Campbell, Stuart Johnson, Pine, Tate and Wilson, with power to co-opt advisers was appointed.

The question of the probable effect of the Insurance Bill on Institutions for the Blind was discussed, and the Chairman reported that Mr. Loch, of the C. O. S., had pointed out to Members of Parliament the necessity to free Charitable Institutions, which find employment, from being compelled to pay, not only their own quota, but also that of the beneficiaries. It was also reported that many of the Institutions and Societies for the Blind had approved of Mr. Loch's action and that the Metropolitan Union had endorsed it. It was thereupon unanimously agreed that this Union of Unions do support Mr. Loch's action.

Mr. Pine and Mr. Munby thought that the whole question of the General Insurance of the Blind should be gone into. On the motion of Mr. Munby, seconded by Mr. Campbell, it was agreed : that the resolution drawn up by the North of England Union on the 7th October should be referred to the National Employment Committee. The resolution was : That the Union of Unions be requested to ask the National Employment Committee to consider the question of the Insurance of the Blind under the :—

- (a) National Insurance Bill.
- (b) Workmen's Compensation Act.
- (c) Life Insurance.

On the motion of Mr. Munby, seconded by Mr. Pine, Miss Taylor was heartily thanked for her paper on " After-care " and it was urged that it should be printed in booklet form. Miss Taylor very generously consented to do this, and to send as many free copies as were desired to the Secretaries of the different Unions.

Mr. Campbell read a letter from General Codrington suggesting that as Rutland was so closely allied to Leicestershire with regard to work for the Blind, it would be better if Rutland could be transferred from the Eastern Union to the Midland. Mr. Burrows, on behalf of the Midland Union, heartily supported the proposition, and pointed out that it would be of more benefit to that Union if Herefordshire could be transferred to either the North West or the South Wales Union. On the motion of Mr. Siddall, seconded by Miss Comber, it was agreed that having heard Mr. Burrow's offer to accept the responsibility of working Rutlandshire, that County should in future be regarded as belonging to the Midland Union. The question as to Herefordshire was left in abeyance pending communications with the North West and South Wales Unions.

Miss Heywood reported that a useful meeting of the Organising Secretaries had been held in the morning, and that it was found that the Girls' Friendly Society was helping the Blind in all parts of the country. Miss Heywood was requested to draw up a brief statement as to the way in which that Society was helping. The question then arose whether the Church of England Men's Society and the Y. M. C. A. could not be induced

to work on similar lines to the Girls' Friendly Society. The Chairman promised, on receiving Miss Heywood's statement, to draw up some suggestions how the Blind could be assisted by these two Societies.

North of England Union. Meetings of the Executive and General Committee took place at Oldham, on October 7th, in the Music Room, Werneth Park, by the kind invitation of Mrs. Lees. The Organising Secretary (Miss Sadgrove) reported visits to Goole, Driffild, Market Weighton, Malton and Rotherham, where friends willing to visit the Blind have been found.

Through the kindness of the North Eastern Railway Company, framed notices drawing attention to the work of the Union, have been placed in thirty stations at a nominal rent.

Institutions and Visiting Societies have been visited by the Organising Secretary in Liverpool, Preston, Southport, Bacup, Blackburn, Bury, Rochdale, Keighley, Leeds and Wakefield.

Fresh work has been started at Warrington, St. Helens and Dewsbury.

On October 31st, the Annual Tea, Meeting and Concert, in connection with the Accrington and District Blind Institution took place in the Town Hall, Accrington. The Mayor presided, supported by many well known residents.

An address was given by Miss Sadgrove, and during the evening a most enjoyable musical programme was gone through by a quartette of blind artistes, comprising the Misses Phillips and Lister (Bradford) and Messrs. Masker and Nolan.

The first Annual Meeting of the Pontefract-with-Osgoldcross Blind Visiting Society was held at the Town Hall, Pontefract, on November 3rd, when a large and influential gathering was presided over by Mr. Claude Leatham, of Wentbridge.

Miss Leatham (Hon. Sec.), Hemsworth Hall, in her report stated that the Society was eighteen months old. In 1910 a small Visiting Committee was formed and, the area of the district being wide, the pioneer work took several months to accomplish. The Society had become affiliated to the North of England Union of Agencies for the Blind, and there were many

schemes to be brought forward in the future. The object of the meeting that afternoon, was to show the need there was for work of that kind amongst the Blind, and partially Blind. Addresses were given by Miss Sadgrove, and the Rev. F. N. McNeile, Vicar of Brafferton, Yorks.

On November 20th, a Drawing Room Meeting was held at the Elms, Malton, through the kindness of Mrs. Fawcett. The Rev. W. M. Coombs, Vicar of Norton, presided over a large attendance. An address on the work of the Union was given by Miss Sadgrove, and at the close of the meeting, Mrs. Fawcett was appointed Secretary, while several ladies undertook to visit the Blind.

During the last three months, thirty nine blind people have been brought under the notice of the Union, for whom help has been obtained, or to whom advice has been given in various ways.

The Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union. A meeting of the Executive Committee was held in London, on the 7th October, when there were present Mr. Wilson, in the chair, Miss Harris Browne, Miss Burnett, Miss Moon, Miss Taylor, Miss Wheeler, Sir John Brickwood, Sir Francis Campbell, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Lempriere, Mr. Stainsby, Mr. Guy Campbell and Miss Bennett.

Regrets for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Mrs. Inglis, Miss Bainbrigge and Miss Charnock.

Correspondence was read from Mr. Frank Lattey regarding the formation of a Society in Bournemouth, and the holding of a meeting in October.

Miss Bennett made her monthly report, which was considered very satisfactory. Amongst other matters it was mentioned that 45 cases had been dealt with since the last meeting, involving 51 visits. The total number of cases which had been considered by the Case Committee amounted to 120. Since the last meeting 8 had been put in the way of earning their own living.

Miss Burnett reported that largely through Mr. Walford's efforts there was now not a single blind beggar in the town of

Reading, and that a sum of £165 had been secured for pensions from an endowment fund. A circular letter with an extract from a speech by Mr. John Burns had been issued to the Medical Profession, Town Council and Board of Guardians, urging that Ophthalmia Neonatorum should be made a notifiable disease within the Borough of Reading.

That a further edition of the leaflet "For the sake of the Blind" was being issued.

On the motion of Mr. Stainsby, seconded by Mr. Lempriere, it was unanimously agreed that Miss B. Taylor, the Chairman and the Hon. Secretary be re-elected to act as Delegates to the Union of Unions.

It was reported that the Baroness Rosenkrantz had been obliged to relinquish her duties as Hon. Secretary of the Ticket Bureau, as she was leaving London. It was agreed that the work of the Bureau should continue to be administered by the Metropolitan Union. Miss Bennett mentioned that during the eight months the Bureau had been worked by the Union, 624 Tickets had been issued.

Lady Campbell drew attention to a circular which had been received from the National Employment Committee, and in order to prevent overlapping it was referred to the Federation Board of the London Workshops.

The Chairman submitted the following resolution in connection with the National Insurance Bill, prepared by Mr. Loch of the C.O.S. ;

"That charitable institutions which give industrial employment to their beneficiaries by way of relief, treatment or training, should not be required to contribute towards the insurance of such beneficiaries."

This was unanimously agreed to.

Many other important matters were dealt with.

A further meeting was held on the 4th November when there were present : Mr. Wilson in the chair, Lady Campbell, Miss Bainbrigge, Miss Harris Browne, Miss Burnett, Miss B. Taylor, Sir John Brickwood, Sir Francis Campbell, Mr. Stuart Johnson, Mr. Guy Campbell and Miss Bennett.

It was reported that the Federation Board of London Workshops had been asked to circularise the London area with the National Employment Leaflet, and the Chairman reported that the matter was receiving attention.

On the motion of Miss Bainbrigge, seconded by Lady Campbell, Mrs. J. Hewlett Hobbs was unanimously elected representative for Maidstone.

Miss Taylor reported that several well-known ladies and gentlemen had kindly consented to be patrons of the Ticket Bureau.

Regrets for inability to attend the meeting were reported on behalf of Mrs. Goodhart, Mrs. Inglis, Miss Moon and Miss Wheeler,

The Hon. Treasurer made his usual monthly report.

The Chairman reported that Miss M. E. Harris Browne had kindly made a donation to pay for extra clerical assistance at the office for nine weeks and had provided a most capable lady for the post. A hearty vote of thanks on the motion of the Chairman was accorded to Miss M. E. Harris Browne for her kind and generous gift.

It was reported that the Blind Social Aid Society's letter, together with a covering letter from the Union, had been issued to the 121 members of Parliament within the area of the Union, and that correspondence was going on between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Union in the hope of trying to induce him not to compel blind people to become Post Office Contributors.

It was reported that a very successful meeting had been held at Bournemouth at the house of the Misses Rooper, on the 28th October. The Mayor presided and about forty people were present. The Bournemouth and District Blind Aid Society was officially formed, and an Executive Committee duly elected, with Miss Rooper as Hon. Treasurer and Mr. F. Lattey, Hon. Secretary. Union Reports and Leaflets were distributed.

It was reported that Miss Owtram, representative of Weybridge, had resigned.

The Organising Secretary reported that a pension of £10

and grants of £9 and £20 had been secured for cases, that 154 tickets had been sent out from the Ticket Bureau since the last meeting, and that copies of the Annual Report for 1910 had been sent to all C.O.S. offices within the Union area, to the Chief Constables, Hospitals and the Ophthalmic Surgeons.

It was reported that the total number of cases seeking assistance now reached 132.

Miss Bainbriggs reported that she had attended and spoken at a largely attended meeting at Winchester, organised by Miss Wilcox, who had been for eight years connected with the Home Teaching Society and was the local representative of the Union.

Midland Counties Union. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.—At a Meeting held at the County Hall, Aylesbury, on 31st October, Mr. Tonman Mosley in the chair, it was unanimously resolved to form an Association for the Blind in Bucks.

Already between forty and fifty “Visitors” are in charge of the Blind scattered here and there over the County, and between two and three hundred totally or partially blind persons are known to them.

For purposes of administration the County is divided into four districts and the “Visitors” in each have elected from among their number an Hon. Sec. and two or more representatives to form a small Executive Committee for their own district. Together, these small Committees form one Central Committee which will meet as often as required for general business. The first meeting of this Central Committee was held at the Offices of Gardner’s Trust on 23rd November, and a letter from Lord Rothschild, accepting the office of President, was read. Other officers are :—

Vice President—Mr. Tonman Moseley.

Chairman of Central Committee—Hon. T. F. Fremantle.

Hon. Secs.—North Bucks, Mrs. Knapp, Linford; North West Bucks, Miss Pauncefort Duncombe, Moreton; Mid Bucks, Mrs. Watkins, Aylesbury; South Bucks and Central Secretary *pro. tem.*, Miss J. Merivale, Oxford.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.—At Peterborough. A small Committee for the Blind in the City has been formed.

Hon. Sec.—Miss Ball, Madeley House, Peterborough.

This Committee will work as an Affiliated Society to the Guild of Help.

WARWICKSHIRE.—A meeting was held in the Town Hall, Leamington, on 2nd June; Lord Algernon Percy presided, and it was agreed to form an Association for the Blind in the County.

Lord Algernon Percy consented to become President; Rev. Francis Hodgson, Clopton, Stratford-on-Avon, Hon. Organising Secretary; Miss Bigg, Oak House, Leamington, Hon. Corresponding Secretary for Cases. The re-organization of the County is being carried out on the basis of the ruri-decanal divisions, each deanery being allotted to a "Local Correspondent" who undertakes to find "Visitors" and by their help to discover any fresh cases of blindness, and to verify information already received. Up to the present time nine deaneries have been taken up, and between thirty and forty people are acting as "Visitors" all over the County.

A Committee for the Blind in BEDWORTH has likewise been formed during this year and is represented on the County Committee by its Secretary, as are also the Coventry Home Teaching Society and the Royal Blind Institution, Birmingham.

WORCESTERSHIRE.—At Dudley. Mrs. Theedam has taken charge of the Blind in connection with the Guild of Help.

Of the remaining Counties there is nothing at present to record.

CONFERENCE IN AUSTRALIA, JANUARY 24-27, 1911.

A conference of Managers of Institutions for the Blind in Australia was convened by Mr. H. Hedger, Manager of the Sydney Industrial Blind Institution, on 24th January, 1911, and following days.

There were present :—Messrs. H. Hedger, New South Wales; J. Thurston Hogarth, Victoria; A. W. Hendry, South Australia; I. Dickson, Queensland; S. C. Kent, West Australia.

Mr. H. Hedger was appointed Chairman, and Mr. I. Dickson, Secretary.

The question of INVALID PENSIONS to the Blind, and its aspect in regard to blind beggars was specially considered at the request of the Prime Minister and Mr. G. T. Allan, Chief Commissioner of Pensions.

The following Resolutions were unanimously agreed to :—

BLIND PEOPLE ELIGIBLE FOR INVALID PENSIONS.

1. That able bodied blind persons under the age of 45 years who have been certified to by the recognised Medical Officers as being physically capable of following any of the occupations taught to blind people shall not be eligible for Invalid Pensions.
2. That before any Application for an Invalid Pension is considered, it be a condition that every person between the ages of 15 and 45 years should, where practicable, undergo a course of industrial training or employment of five years.
3. That during the period of such industrial training, the Institutions shall undertake to pay destitute single men a minimum of 16/-, married men 20/- minimum per week, women and girls (blind married women excepted) 12/6 per week, or otherwise provide for their maintenance during the period of their industrial training.
4. That a list of blind Pensioners should be supplied to the Institutions in each State, so that the benefits offered by the Institutions other than work could be extended to them.
5. That all applicants for the Invalid Pension should undergo an examination by, and receive a Certificate from, a certified Oculist.

STREET MENDICANTS.—That they should not be granted a Pension, as it would be very unwise to subsidise mendicancy and if sanctioned by the Government would also prove an inducement

for some to leave their work and become mendicants, and would distinctly remove all incentive to effort on the part of younger blind people capable of being trained for self maintenance.

That street begging be prohibited for the following reasons:—

1. It fosters a distaste for work.
2. Begging is entirely demoralising to the beggar, detrimental to the welfare of his children, and to others who assist him.
3. The temptations to indolence and dissipation which it affords are so very great that every effort should be made to stamp it out.

REMEDIAL MEASURES.

1. That the State Government be asked to prohibit street begging.
2. That the State Governments be asked to ascertain through the police the number of the blind on the streets, their ages, state of health, means, and average weekly takings.
3. That the various blind Institutions employ those who may be eligible who are at this date maintaining themselves by street begging, and allow them in the case of destitute single men, a sum of 16/-, married men 20/- per week and women and girls 12/6 a week, or otherwise provide for their maintenance.
4. That to provide for such Mendicants as may be incapable of following any occupation, they should be granted the Invalid Pension of 10/- per week, the Institutions undertaking to supplement the Pension by granting an allowance in the case of indigent single men, 6/- per week, and in the case of married men, 10/- per week.
5. That in regard to the above married men having young children to support, the Conference recommends that the State Government should allow for each child, an amount equal to that paid to foster parents under the Boarding out condition.
6. That, conditional upon the foregoing resolutions being carried out, the Commonwealth Government grant the various Institutions a BOUNTY of 25% on their total out-

put of coir mats and matting, which would enable them to employ blind persons.

COMPULSORY TRAINING.—That the Governing Bodies of the Institutions for the Education of the Blind throughout Australasia be urged to take all possible steps to induce the Governments of their respective States to introduce Compulsory Education for the Blind, as is in force in the United Kingdom, and several other countries.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION RE BLIND.—That a letter be sent to the Minister of Home Affairs with a view of securing the names, addresses, age and sex of the blind persons in the various States included in the Census Paper at the forthcoming Census, and that the letter should be conveyed to the Minister by the Members of the Conference who will be in Melbourne on Monday, 30th inst., viz., Messrs. Hendry Dickson and Kent, who should informally interview him, and use their best efforts to have the views of the Conference carried into effect.

WAGES AND BONUSES TO BLIND WORKERS.—That as a necessary corollary to increased allowances to beginners, the bonus to piece workers should be revised, and that to enable the Conference to determine the best basis for constructing schedules of same each of the Institutions shall prepare a complete list of all wages paid, together with particulars of deduction for work not completed by blind workers, together with all information necessary to fully compare the practice of each Institution.

It was agreed that a Conference of the Representatives of the Australasian Institutions, Libraries and Homes for the Blind be held in Sydney on or about 17th January, 1912, for the purpose of considering matters relating to the general welfare of the Blind, and that such Representatives consist of two officials from each Institution, and of Members of their respective Committees.

CO-OPERATION IN PURCHASE OF RAW MATERIALS.—That it would be of undoubted advantage to all the Industrial Institutions if they arranged to co-operate in purchasing their raw materials, especially Coir Yarns, as it would be obviously possible to buy large quantities for the whole of the Institutions cheaper than small quantities can be bought by individual Institutions.

It is further recommended that one of the Institution Managers, or a suitable person, should visit India for the purpose of negotiating for supplies of Coir Yarn and to enquire into the best methods of manufacturing and finishing mats and matting, the expense of such trip to be defrayed by the Institutions combining on the basis of the consumption of yarn during the past year.

COLLEGE OF TEACHERS OF THE BLIND.

A Meeting of the Committee of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held at 53 Victoria Street, London, October 14th, when there were present :—Sir Francis Campbell, Miss Douglas Hamilton, Miss Garaway, Rev. St. Clare Hill and Messrs. W. H. Illingworth, B. P. Jones, W. Littlewood, A. B. Norwood, Alex. P. Pearson, H. W. P. Pine, W. M. Stone, Henry J. Wilson (Chairman) and Henry Stainsby (Hon. Registrar).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Rev. T. Barnard and Mr. S. Maddocks.

The Report of the Board of Examiners was read and it was moved by Mr. Littlewood, seconded by Mr. Norwood and Resolved "That the report of the Examiners be received, adopted and entered on the minutes, and that a copy be sent to the Board of Education and to each member of the Committee.

On the motion of Mr. Pine, seconded by Mr. Jones, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the Examiners and Moderator for conducting the 1911 Examination.

Mr. Pearson having intimated, to the sincere regret of the Committee, that he could not accept office of Examiner if nominated, it was moved by Mr. Norwood, seconded by Mr. Pine, and resolved "That Miss Garaway, the Rev. St. Clare Hill, M.A., F.C.T.B., Messrs. W. H. Illingworth, F.C.T.B., and W. M. Stone, F.E.I.S., be, and they are hereby re-appointed Examiners."

It was moved by Mr. Pine, seconded by Miss Garaway, and unanimously resolved "That Miss Lily Bell be, and she is hereby appointed an Examiner subject to the approval of the Board of Education."

It was moved by Mr. Littlewood, seconded by Rev. St. Clare Hill, and unanimously resolved "That Mr. A. P. Pearson, B.A., be, and he is hereby appointed Moderator."

A letter was read from Mr. W. H. Thurman, General Superintendent and Secretary of the Royal Birmingham School for the Blind, suggesting that the next examination should be held at Birmingham, and offering on behalf of his Committee all necessary facilities.

It was resolved thereupon to hold the next examination at Birmingham on the 21st, 22nd, 23rd May, 1912.

Certain modifications in the Syllabus for 1912 were approved, and the Board of Examiners were asked to embody them in the forthcoming issue of the Syllabus.

The registrar submitted the recommendations of the Joint Committee of the College of Teachers of the Blind, and the Joint Examination Board of Teachers of the Deaf.

It was resolved that the Joint Committee be asked to proceed further with this matter and report.

A letter was read from Sir Robert Morant, Secretary of the Board of Education, dated 19 June, 1911, to the effect that the President of the Board had decided to proceed forthwith with the preparation of an Order in Council establishing a Teachers' Registration Council on the lines of the scheme agreed upon at the Conference convened by the Federal Council of Secondary Schools Associations and other Associations held at the Cloth-workers' Hall on 13th of November, 1909.

Accompanying this letter was a copy of "Further papers relating to the Registration of Teachers and the proposed Registration Council."

A further meeting of the Committee was held on 11th November when there were present:—Sir Francis and Lady Campbell, Miss Laura Douglas-Hamilton, Miss Garaway, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. W. H. Illingworth, B. P. Jones, W. Littlewood, A. B. Norwood, A. P. Pearson, H. W. P. Pine, W. M. Stone, Henry J. Wilson (Chairman) and Henry Stainsby (Hon. Registrar).

Mr. Maddocks wrote regretting his inability to be present.

The Examiners submitted a draft of the new syllabus which embodied all the alterations passed by the Committee at their last meeting.

The modified syllabus was approved and ordered to be printed and circulated, and with it it was resolved to issue a list of books on loan from the College library; also a paper on the "Theory of Education as applied to the Blind."

It was resolved not to require candidates who sat in previous years to take "Theory of Education as applied to the Blind" at the 1912 examination, but subsequent to 1912 every candidate must take it.

Mr. Stone reported that Sir William Turner, Principal of Edinburgh University, had consented to be nominated as a Vice-President of the College, and it was resolved to recommend him to the Council for election.

Other important questions were discussed.

A WEEK-END IN LONDON.

By a Dundee Blind Man.

I have cherished many expectations and weaved numerous schemes—fantastic and otherwise—for the future, since I lost my sight when a boy, 25 years ago, but the possibility of treading the streets of the great Metropolis was not one of them. Through the generosity of a good friend the opportunity offered, and I joyfully accepted it. I recollect reading in an American Magazine a letter by a blind man, in which he gave his impressions of a visit to the Chicago Exhibition. The following is an excerpt from it ;—

"The effective grouping of the buildings, the beauty and variety of their architecture, the lagoons, the graceful motion of the gondolas, the fountains, the statuary, the flowers, the constantly moving throng of people combined to make a scene of indescribable beauty which I shall never forget."

I felt I was equally capable of enjoying the Sights of London as our American those of Chicago, and through the same medium, namely, an intelligent guide who had frequently been in the city and knew it well. So on Friday morning we entrained at the Tay Bridge for London. My guide described the principal features of the route as we sped on, mentioning particularly the large towns—Berwick, Newcastle, Durham, York, Doncaster, Grantham, and Peterborough, each bringing to my mind what I had read or been told regarding them. The journey to Kings Cross was a long one, but the tedium of the way was pleasantly diversified by the conversation of my fellow passengers who, noticing my obvious disability, were extremely kind to me. The corridor carriage is a great advance on the old system of travelling. I soon got to know the geography of the carriage, and could, unaided, go from one end of it to the other. I found out the smoking compartment, and enjoyed a good hour or two with merry intelligent story-tellers there. Dining aboard a train was a novelty to me, and it took me some time to realise that I was not in an hotel.

Eager to overtake as much as possible in sight-seeing we had not been more than an hour in our hotel when we sallied into the crowded thoroughfare of Oxford Street. It was no easy matter to thread our way through the living stream, linked, as I was, to my guide's arm. I likened the crowd to that at Dundee Town House square on a Saturday night, with this difference that it was a swiftly moving crowd. Conversation was impossible, but my guide in ejaculatory statements described the scene to me—the motor buses, the motors, the taxis (rows of them), the cabs, and other vehicles which passed either way—the whole with a buzzing and deafening clangour.

To avoid the congested traffic we descended to the Tube Railway. The scene here, however, was equally animated. I had heard much of the "Tube," but had no idea that underneath the gigantic city there is a perfect net-work of railway. We alighted at the "Bank" Station, and were soon in the open again. There the congestion of traffic was even more than in Oxford Street. In the course of our walk back to the hotel the

following buildings were pointed out to me:—The Bank of England, the centre of British finance with its untold wealth of coin and bullion, the Royal Exchange, the Mansion House, the General Post Office, Newgate Prison (the latter recalling Dickens' description of the Gordon riot in "Barnaby Rudge"). Walking along Holborn we rested for an hour in one of the numerous Cinematograph theatres in the thoroughfare, where some good music was discoursed and fine pictures shown, the latter being so described to me that they were reproduced in my mind in such a way as to give me pleasure. We had only been in the city some three hours, and now, weary with the day's long railway journey and subsequent peregrinations, we found our hotel again. Saturday was almost wholly devoted to business—my friend attending a meeting at which the cause of the Blind throughout the country was discussed with the view of the legislature intervening for the more general betterment of the class. The purpose of my visit to the City was to consult a specialist in Optics regarding my left eye, in which there was a ray of light, in the hope of getting it increased by special spectacles. To him I accordingly proceeded, my guide on this occasion being a young Londoner. On our way thither we came to Westminster Abbey, and keen was my regret to find there was no admittance, owing to preparations for the approaching Coronation being in progress, I stood at the door, however, felt it over, and held in my hand the great triangular knocker. The guarding policeman approached, wondering at my action, and, perhaps, thinking I had designs on the noble edifice, but an explanation by my friend sufficed, and I was not "run in." How I wished to stand in the "Poet's Corner" so beautifully described by Washington Irving, and to tread the "Statesman Aisle," and to walk over the slab that covers our great Liberal Gladstone!

We returned by Parliament Street and Whitehall, passing the Horse Guards, the Foreign Office, the Colonial Office, and numerous other Government Offices. When in Downing Street I had a mind to call at No. 10, and put in a plea for "State aid for the Blind," and at No. 11 to ask the Chancellor of the

Exchequer to make the necessary provision for it in his next Budget. At last we reached Trafalgar Square—according to Sir Robert Peel—"the finest site in Europe." I stood beneath the great Nelson column and stroked the paws of Landseers Lions at its base.

Next I spent some time in the Institution for the Blind, Tottenham Court Road, the largest industrial workshops for the Blind in London. There I was on congenial ground, and became deeply interested in the life of the place, the inmates of which were interested in the visit of a blind brother from the far North. We compared notes as to our respective Institutions. About the same in the number of blind employed, I found London had it in respect of wages and allowances to the workers. This, one would expect, from the extent and wealth of the city, but in respect of the number and variety of industrial operations engaged in, Dundee excels the Metropolitan workshops.

On Saturday night we made a further tour of the principal streets. From Trafalgar Square we entered the Strand, passing the Law Courts, Somerset House, St. Clement Danes, in which Dr. Johnson used to worship, Gladstone monument, and the "Griffin" I embraced and tried to decipher by my fingers the inscriptions on it. Next we entered Fleet Street, famous as being the headquarters of Journalism, in which our own "Tiser" has an office. As I walked this street I recalled Johnson, when the various streets and courts were mentioned to me—Mitre Court, Crane Court, Johnson Court, Bolt Street, etc. Passing St. Paul's we walked through Paternoster Row—a narrow lane—the centre of the book trade. Turning homewards by way of Holborn we, by mistake, took the wrong turning, going into Aldersgate Street and Goswell Road, and found ourselves at about 10 o'clock in a busy market-place which reminded me of our Greenmarket. Lost for a little, we found ourselves safe in our hotel at last.

The programme for Sunday was Church twice, and freedom the rest of the day. After morning service we wished to visit Bunhill Fields, and stand at the graves of the shining lights of early nonconformity, including Daniel Defoe, Isaac Watts, the

three Cromwells, and John Bunyan, but we found the gate closed.

Next morning (Monday) we boarded the 10 o'clock East Coast Express at Kings Cross, arriving at Tay Bridge to the advertised minute, thus terminating a pleasant, memorable, and instructive week-end in the great City.

PRIZE FESTIVAL OF THE ROYAL NORMAL COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND.

SPEECH BY MR. LAYTON.

Mr. Mayor, I feel it is a very great honour to have the privilege of speaking here to-day. It is with a sense of great gratitude that I speak at this Festival, for it recalls to me many pleasant reminiscences, and, I may say, some painful ones—painful when I had to go and jump into that swimming bath with the thermometer close on zero. Still we do not have many painful reminiscences, they are mostly joyous ones. I lost my sight at the age of 13 through an accident. I was sent to a school, and learned many things, but not one thing thoroughly. After I had tried for six years to earn my living, I saw Dr. Armitage, and arrangements were made for me to enter the College. My friends paid for me for the first few months. Afterwards I gained a Gardner Scholarship, and through that Scholarship I was able to remain here four years. In 1887 I gained my diploma as piano tuner and organist, and went out to Canada, where I had a brother. I tried to get an organist's situation, but as the Canadians did not know anything about the possibilities of the Blind as regards organ playing, I failed on those lines. But I am thankful to say that I had two strings to my bow. It is always a good thing to have two strings to one's bow, and the second string did not fail me, that was piano tuning. I did not simply sit down and wait for work to come to me; I had to go out and ask for it, to ring bells and knock at doors, and ask the lady of the house if she wanted her piano tuned; it was not always a pleasant job, and sometimes I had

tears in my eyes. But I had determined to get on, for I wanted to be free, I wanted to be like other people. My tuning connection grew, and one of my first patrons was Sir Donald A. Smith, now Lord Strathcona. My business has grown from very small things—from two or three second-hand pianos step by step, until I have now one of the finest warerooms in Canada, sell over 500 pianos per annum, and have an annual turnover of £25,000. Nine years after I went to Canada, I came to England and met a young lady who used to lead me about when I was quite a little chap, and she was only six years old. I persuaded her to marry me, and since then my work has gone along by leaps and bounds.

Education means much to the seeing, but it means infinitely more to the Blind, for when the Blind are educated and occupied, they forget that they are blind. Three years ago, knowing that little or practically nothing was done for the Blind in the province of Quebec, I made up my mind to do something. I thought what would have been my future, had my lot been cast in Montreal, and I had not had the advantage of the Royal Normal College for the Blind; I made up my mind that if it ever lay in my power, I would try to do something for the English speaking Blind in the province of Quebec. Three years ago I started an Association to help the Blind, and opened a workshop where brooms could be made. There are now many men making brooms there, the smallest wage they receive is 16s. a week, and some of them earn as much as £2 a week. We then commenced gathering funds to start a school, to be run on the lines of the Royal Normal College. Last year we collected over 80,000 dollars for this purpose, and we realised in one day in Montreal nearly £6,000 towards these schools.

There is one point which I would particularly like to emphasize by way of encouragement to the Principal, Professors, and teachers of the College. I want them to know that the work does not stop when the young man goes out into the world and becomes a successful tuner, because he exerts an influence in the world. I maintain that the influence of the successful blind man or woman does more good to the com-

munity than even that of a successful seeing man. When a seeing man is thriving and you point to him as a successful man, people at once say, "He had advantages I never had, influence, education, and the like." But when you point to a young lady who, without sight, with only four senses, is getting her living and supporting another perhaps, there is no argument they can use. A successful blind man or woman is a living sermon. I want the teachers to know that. When you think of the good, and the possibilities that will come forth from these children, and how their influence will extend to hundreds and hundreds, you should be encouraged to go on with your good, your noble work.

Let me say a word to the graduates. There is only one thing necessary, and that is to have a purpose in life. You want to say to yourself, "I am determined that my blindness shall make no difference to me; I will do something, I will be a power in the world." Some of the most useful men in the United States, such as Senator Gore and Herreschoff, who gives Lipton so much trouble, are blind men. The Editor of the "New York World" is a blind man. It is not sight that is at the back of every movement for good; it is thought that makes man great. If only the thoughts are right, the blind man has an advantage in some respects over the seeing man. He certainly has the power of thought, and it is along that line that Sir Francis Campbell has exceeded all other Institutions in training the Blind to enable them to get a living with their mental faculties. I want, in conclusion, to thank Sir Francis Campbell for what his influence has meant to me, and all the professors of this College, and I want Sir Francis to know that his work is going to go on in the province of Quebec in what we hope will be called the 'Royal Canadian College for the Blind.

NOTE.—In our next number we hope to give Mrs. Westlake's speech on the same occasion.

The Blind.

VOL. III.

No. 58.

APRIL 20TH, 1912.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before June 18th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. Mr. Reginald Vernon Bainton, a former student of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester, passed his Matriculation Examination at the University of Durham in January last, and is now in residence.

2. Wilfrid Kershaw, of Rochdale, a Gardner Scholar at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, although only 16 years of age, passed the Examination for the Associateship of the Royal College of Organists at his first trial last January.

Rebecca Fearnley, who received a Gardner Scholarship at the Royal Normal College on leaving the School for the Blind, Leeds, has passed the Licentiate Examination of the Royal Academy of Music in Pianoforte Playing.

The following Organ appointments have recently been obtained by Gardner Scholars at the Royal Normal College: St. Colomba Presbyterian Church, Liverpool, by William Laurie, F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M.; the Methodist Chapel, Hull, by John Lawson, F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M.; the Chapel of the West Ham Union, by Maud Weir; St. Margaret's Church, Whatfield, by Joshua Stephenson; and St. Mary's Church, Haverfordwest, by Sidney Anstey, A.R.C.O.

3. The fate of Charles Penrose, on January 29th, at the age of 24, at a large fire in a factory in Clifton was most pathetic. He was a pianoforte tuner by trade, and had left the Bristol Royal Blind Asylum about three years, and had worked ever since at Mr. Crichton's factory as a "stock" tuner. Gallant, but fruitless efforts were made to rescue him, as the flames spread so rapidly and the water was freezing as it fell. His funeral was attended by a large number of friends from all stations of life, which showed how highly he was esteemed.

4. The Rev. J. L. Gardner, late of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester, and of Selwyn College, Cambridge, has left St. James's Church, Edinburgh, where he was Curate, and has gone to the Mission Church of Gullane, where he has been made Priest-in-charge.

5. Mr. J. Stewart Illingworth, who has been appointed to take charge of the "Blind" Department of the New School for the Blind and Deaf at Gorleston-on-Sea, began work in 1908 as an assistant master at the Exeter Institution for the Blind. Six months later he was appointed on the staff of the Wavertree School for the Blind, Liverpool, and there for the last four years his thorough work in the School, and his practical interest in the pastimes of his pupils have been most successful.

Mr. Illingworth took the Diploma of the College of Teachers of the Blind, with Honours in two subjects, in 1909, at the early age of twenty. He comes of a family well known in the Deaf and Blind World, his father being Superintendent of Henshaws' Blind Asylum, Manchester.

On leaving Wavertree he was the recipient of a handsome gift of Books from the Superintendent, Matron, and Staff.

6. Miss Nellie Adams, referred to in the article on the employment of blind teachers, has been presented on leaving the Norwich Class for the Blind, with a gold brooch as a mark of affection from her pupils, and a hand-bag from her sighted colleagues on the staff. These spontaneous gifts show conclu-

sively how much Miss Adams' earnest and successful efforts on behalf of the children have been appreciated, and she must value the gifts very highly.

7. It is with sincere regret that we hear that Mr. Wade Deacon has resigned the presidency of the Liverpool School for the Blind, after holding the post for thirteen years. He has been most assiduous in the discharge of his duties, and at one time worked very hard and successfully in raising money to provide a fund for assisting pupils on leaving school. During his last year of office an important step has been taken in establishing a Home for the elder men, where they could live, and come daily to the School to follow their various occupations. A house in Hope Street, close to the School, has been secured where twelve men can be accommodated. Mr. Wade Deacon is one of the Auditors of the London & North Western Railway Company.

8. The prize of one guinea offered last year by the British and Foreign Blind Association to the readers of the "Braille Musical Magazine" for the best "Coronation Commemoration March" was won by Mr. Albert Robins, A.R.C.O., formerly a pupil of the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, where he held a Gardner Scholarship. Although the sole right of publication belonged to the British and Foreign Blind Association, the Council waived it, and allowed Mr. Robins to dispose of the copyright. This has just been purchased by Dr. Charles Vincent, of the Vincent Music Company, 60, Berners Street, London, W., who has also commissioned Mr. Robins to write two short compositions for the organ.

9. We offer our hearty congratulations to Mr. Kruger of the Institution for the Blind, Worcester, South Africa, on his marriage with the matron of the Blind Boys' Home. It will be remembered that Mr. Kruger came over to the Exeter Conference last year, and returned to South Africa quite by himself. We hear nothing but praises of the bride.

10. The address of the Barclay Workshop for Blind Women is now, 233, Edgware Road, London, W., as it was found necessary to move to larger premises in consequence of the increased number of workers.

11. At Messrs. Selfridge & Co.'s, the Workshops for the Blind of London Federation Board organized last month a display of the work made by the blind employees in these Workshops, and several workers were to be seen carrying on their respective industries, such as mat making, chair caning basket making and repairing, mattress making, weaving, knitting by hand and by machine, and fancy tray making. This exhibition, owing to the strenuous efforts of Dr. Rosedale, Hon. Sec. to the Board, was most successful, not only in demonstrating to the crowds of visitors what the Blind could do, but also by the sales and orders taken. The arrangements made by Messrs. Selfridge & Co. were excellent, and the Board are very grateful to them for their kind and liberal assistance in the cause of the Blind.

12. The Fifty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Home Teaching Society for the Blind (London), was held on March 22nd. Viscount Midleton presided, and in moving the adoption of the Annual Report for 1911, referred to the difficulty experienced in raising sufficient funds to support the Society, and added that they must not shut the door to any possible plan for the collaboration of Societies, as a comprehensive society taking the public into its confidence is the strongest. The Dean of Westminster in seconding the adoption of the report, referred to several blind persons he had met, and how the Society, which he commended most heartily for generous support, had introduced into the homes of the Blind the intelligent interests of cultivated life. Dr. Aglionby and Sir Reginald Macleod moved and seconded respectively the election of the Bishop of Southwark, the Bishop of Kensington and Miss E. M. Bainbrigge as Vice-Presidents. Both speakers referred with much regret to Miss Bainbrigge's resignation as Secretary, and stated that, as a mark

of appreciation of the excellent work she had done for seventeen years, it was resolved to elect her as the first lady vice-president. They wished to convey to her their hearty appreciation of the long years of service, and hoped she might enjoy many more after her retirement.

The Editor wishes to endorse these words, as he has been in close touch with the Society ever since Miss Bainbrigge's appointment, and he fully realizes how greatly the organization has been perfected under her devoted and skilful hands.

13. On March 20th, at Grosvenor House (by kind permission of His Grace the Duke of Westminster), an exceedingly interesting and successful meeting was held in aid of the Incorporated National Lending Library for the Blind. Unfortunately illness prevented the Library's President, H.R.H. the Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, from presiding; Her Royal Highness takes a keen interest in the welfare of the Library. His Grace, the Duke of Argyll, took the Chair, and made a most sympathetic speech. Speeches and appeals on behalf of the Library were made by Mrs. Kendal, Miss Lena Ashwell, Miss Winifred Graham, Miss Ethel Grimwood, the Right Hon. F. E. Smith, K.C., M.P., Mr. Lawford, F.R.C.S., President of the Ophthalmological Society, and Mr. Hamley, Chairman of the Library Committee. The sum obtained as a result of this meeting has now reached a total of £109, £25 of which was contributed by the Duke of Westminster.

14. The 1st Annual Meeting of the Worthing Society for Befriending the Blind, which was founded by, and is affiliated to, the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties' Union of Societies for the Blind, was held on March 16th, when an address was given by Mr. Henry J. Wilson on the work and aims of the Union. The Society was started in October, 1910, by the kind efforts of Miss E. Moore, the representative of the Union, and Hon. Sec. of the Society. A strong local committee have been formed and they meet monthly.

15. A public Meeting of the Bournemouth and District Blind Aid Society, affiliated to the Metropolitan Union of Societies for the Blind, was held on February 27th, in Holy Trinity Hall, Bournemouth, when the Mayor presided, and Mr. Henry Stainsby and Dr. Mary Jeremy were the chief speakers. The former dealt more especially with the education of the Blind, and the Braille system, and the latter with ophthalmia of the new born, strongly recommending those present to persuade the Bournemouth Corporation to make the disease compulsorily notifiable. Mr. Lattey, Hon. Sec. of the Society, said that during its four months' existence he had got into touch with 60 or 70 blind people, and that visitors had been secured for all of them, but that they still wanted more visitors to read to the Blind.

16. The first Annual Meeting of the Home Teaching Society for the Blind at Torquay was held on February 19th, and the report of the first year's work was most gratifying. Seventy cases had been visited—forty of which were in Torquay—and over four hundred visits had been paid. Many articles made by the Blind had been sold through the agency of the Society. Miss E. M. Bainbrigge addressed the meeting and congratulated the Society on its achievements. She pleaded for more funds, so as to enable the teacher to visit three instead of two days a week, and mentioned how the goods manufactured by the Blind were being disposed of at the depôt at Wimbledon, and in Berkshire by an energetic lady interested in the Blind. Miss Bainbrigge said the large majority of the Blind lost their sight late in life, and very little could be done for them except to visit them, to cheer them, and to teach them to read the raised type. Addresses were also given by the Rev. F. L. Harris and Mr. C. M. Collingwood, and much interest was aroused in the Society.

17. The Annual Meeting and Conference of the After-Care Association for Blind, Deaf and Crippled Children was held on March 11th, in the London County Council Chamber, Spring

Gardens, London, when Mr. Henry J. Wilson gave an address on "The Care of Blind Children on leaving school."

18. The 19th Annual Report of the Reading Blind Aid Society has been published and is most satisfactory. The fact that there is not a blind beggar in a population of 75,000, and that "every known blind person is comfortably housed and decently clothed and has a small assured income" speaks conclusively of the good work done by the Committee, and especially by their indefatigable Hon. Sec., Mr. Hugh E. Walford. Ophthalmia Neonatorum has also been made a compulsorily notifiable disease, and three pensions of £6 a year each have been secured.

19. The following new books and music have been recently published by the British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W. The prices given in brackets include postage. "Electricity and Magnetism," vol. 4, completing the whole work, 2/6 (2/7½). "The Insurance Bill," being an official explanation of its provisions (4d.) "Margaret Ogilvy" (J. M. Barrie), 2/9 (2/10½). Instructions in Machine Knitting, 5d. (6d.) The Underground Railways of London, with Maps and Diagrams, 5d. (6d.) Glossary to Shakespeare's Works (Globe Edition), in two volumes, 3/- each (3/1½ each).

MUSIC:—Prelude in A and Postlude in C (Smart), 5d. (6d.) Three Short Voluntaries for the Organ (Hopkins), in three sets; set i., 6d. (7d.); sets ii. and iii., 5d. (6d.) Grand Choeur (Organ), Hollins, 3d. (4d.) "Lend me your Aid" (Song), Gounod, 5d. (6d.) "Tears of Sorrow, Shame and Anguish" (Bass Solo), Barnby, 3d. (4d.) "Stories of Jesus" (Hymn), F. A. Challinor, 2d. (3d.) "Devotion" (Song), Schumann, 3d. (4d.) "Sarabande" (Piano), Wolstenholme, 2d. (3d.) Melody in E flat (Piano), German, 2d. (3d.) "Reiterlust" (Duet for piano), Spindler, 4d. (5d.) Sonata in G minor (Violin and Piano), Stanley, 5d. (6d.) Toccata in C major (Organ), Arne, 3d. (4d.) "Sea Slumber-Song" and "In Haven"

(Elgar), 3d. (4d.) "Shadow Pictures" No. 4, Scherzino (Piano), Mayer, 2d. (3d.)

20. In our last number we referred (paragraph No. 21) to the proposal to print "Channels of Blessing" in the Moon type, but we understand that only 18 orders have been received, instead of the 100 mentioned. The editor now makes another suggestion, and that is that if £8 a year can be raised by subscriptions to pay for the cost of type-setting, he will bring out a bi-monthly magazine of 24 large pages for 1/- per copy, exclusive of postage.

21. A National Library for the Blind has been formed in Washington with Miss Giffin as Director. Twenty-seven Governors of States have accepted their nominations on the Executive Council, and others will soon be enrolled. The Library is willing to form an alliance with all National Libraries in Europe, such as those in London, Paris, Vienna, The Hague, Hamburg, etc. In the Constitution it is stated that "the object of the Association is to provide literature for the Blind, by purchase, by printing, and by copying, and to distribute the same by means of traveling libraries," etc. It is expected that many blind paid copyists will be employed in the extension of the library. All the books belonging to the library will be placed within reach of every blind reader, as in America books for the Blind are conveyed post free. The Central Library is in Washington, but there will be branches in all the large towns. The reading room for the Blind, opened in 1897, and so ably directed by Miss Giffin, was closed on July 1st, 1911. It is estimated that there are 80,000 blind persons in the United States, of whom 82% are beyond school age. It is pleasing to know that this National Library for the Blind in the United States took its initiative (as it acknowledges) from the leaflet "A Plea for a Universal Library," circulated by the Incorporated National Lending Library for the Blind in London.

THE UNIONS OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

The Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union. A meeting of the Executive Committee was held on January 6th, when amongst much other business a letter was read from the Church Benefit Society stating that the Committee would be willing to admit blind people as members of the Society on condition "that no benefits would be payable for blindness, or the disease from which the present blindness has resulted, and further that the Blind members of the Society will be valued on their own experience at periods decided upon by the Executive Council; the conditions of their membership in the future would depend as to the result of that experience." There was no doubt in the mind of the Chief Secretary that the Blind would find themselves treated on exactly similar terms as he stated.

It was reported that 160 cases had been dealt with during 1911, in the following way, viz.: Advice had been given to Guardians, Charity Organisation Societies, Hospitals, and other Societies, in 91 cases as to work, pensions, training, occupations at home, etc. Eight had been found work, 9 sent for training, 4 received grants for tools, 7 received allowances and pensions, 7 dismissed, and 31 cases were still under consideration.

The question of the employment of blind teachers was raised, in regard to which a full statement is given on page 578.

A further meeting was held on February 3rd, when *inter alia* a memorandum with regard to the employment of blind teachers was presented, and Sir Francis Campbell was requested to convene a meeting of the Superintendents of the various Institutions of the Blind to discuss the subject.

Another meeting was held on March 2nd, when a draft of the annual report of 1911 was submitted and amended and approved.

The Annual Meeting was held on March 30th, and the report for 1911, which shows much progress, was presented. We hope to give in our next number a full account of the

meeting, including the two interesting addresses by Mrs. Goodhart and Miss Charnock.

The North of England Union. Executive and General Meetings were held at the Kings Manor House, York, on January 25th, and several meetings have been addressed by the Organising Secretary.

There was tea and an entertainment for the Blind, at Stockton-on-Tees, on February 1st, and a meeting in the Town Hall, Sunderland, on February 6th.

An address on Prevention of Blindness was given to a gathering of mothers and district visitors, at Norton, Malton, on February 26th, and a meeting was held in the Town Hall, Ripon, on the work of the Union on March 22nd.

A Visiting Committee for the Blind of Beverley and District was formed on February 6th, and representatives of the Union have also been found for many districts during the last two months.

The York City Council has passed a resolution adopting the compulsory notification of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, in which the Union has had considerable influence.

At the General Meeting of the Union on January 25th a resolution was passed unanimously approving the proposed "Education of the Blind Bill," as submitted by the Special Committee appointed by the Conference of Institutions and Societies held in London, March 25th, 1911.

Midland Counties Union. The report for 1911 shows most satisfactory progress in the formation of two County Associations for the Blind and several small local Committees. In Buckinghamshire there was no agency or society for the Blind of any sort; now there are about 50 visitors throughout the county looking after the blind in various districts. In Warwickshire a somewhat similar work has been begun, and there are already about 40 visitors, whose areas in this county are the ruridecanal divisions. Reference is made to the inclusion of Rutland in this Union instead of Hereford, and to the

visits of the Organising Secretary to many towns, where meetings have been held or the Blind sought out, and visitors found to befriend them. A general meeting was held at Nottingham in February, when the Duke of Portland (the President) was in the chair.

The North West Union. The third Annual Meeting was held at Shrewsbury on March 1st, when the Archdeacon of Chester presided. Continued good progress was reported from all the local Societies. The North Wales Society has now a nominee in every parish who regularly visits the Blind.

Mr. A. Siddall, of Rochdale, gave a very able and telling speech. It was reported that in Shrewsbury Ophthalmia Neonatorum would soon be made a compulsory notifiable disease. The report for 1911 is published. Annual meetings have also been held in Chester and Macclesfield.

COLLEGE OF TEACHERS OF THE BLIND.

There was a meeting of Fellows on February 17th at 1.45 p.m., and at 2.30 p.m. a meeting of the Committee, when arrangements were made for the annual meeting, and it was reported that the Board of Education had recognised the teachers successful at the last examination, and had approved the appointment of the examiners for 1912. It was further reported that a holiday course of lectures had been arranged and that there had been further correspondence about the education of blind-deaf children. The draft report for 1911 was presented, amended and approved, as amended.

On March 9th, at 11 a.m., there was a meeting of the Council, when the report for 1911 was discussed and the agenda paper arranged for the annual meeting.

At 2.30 p.m. the fourth annual meeting of the Council was held in the rooms of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, when Professor Adams presided. The Chairman wore his doctor's robes, and the Fellows for the first time donned their hoods and gowns. The meeting having been opened with prayer by the Rev. St. Clare Hill, and the Hon.

Registrar having read letters of apology for absence from Sir Francis and Lady Campbell, Sir Matthew Dodsworth, Mrs. A. Greg, Miss I. Heywood, Messrs. Dixon, Hall, Norwood, Priestley, Stone, Storey, and H. M. Taylor, and having read the annual report for 1911 and the statement of accounts, it was resolved, on the motion of Professor Adams, seconded by Sir Ellis Cunliffe, "That the Report and Financial Statements as read, be received, adopted and entered on the minutes, and that copies be forwarded to the President, Vice-Presidents, Officers, Members, Subscribers, and other persons interested in the education of the Blind."

Professor Adams, after congratulating the College of Teachers of the Blind with the Smith Training College on having one representative between them on the Registration Council of Teachers, referred to it as one of many ways in which the importance of the College is now recognised. It should become better and more widely known, and he hoped its work would go on and prosper. Though it had only been in existence a few years, it should soon be recognised as doing a great public service, for if special training be needed for the ordinary teacher of sighted children, how much more must it be necessary for those who taught the blind children, for whom "knowledge at one entrance" was "quite shut out?" The old saying as to poets, had sometimes been translated into "The teacher is born, not made," but he held that to be a fallacy, and that the successes and failures of teachers varied to a very large extent according to the amount of training received. A well-known Headmaster had said that there were only two absolutely necessary requisites for a teacher—knowledge of his subject, and a sense of humour. The Professor remarked that in his opinion teachers of the Blind should certainly have a good knowledge of their subject and a sense of humour, but that they also needed knowledge of human nature and perception of the possibilities involved in the case they were dealing with. It was impossible to make a teacher if he had no backbone, that is to say, no power of keeping order, or if he were unable so to present his subject as

to ensure the child's comprehension. These two qualities were by no means always found in combination, and the Professor related a case in which 150 children were by some accident left without a master in the room, which consequently speedily became a miniature pandemonium. The caretaker of the school, an old soldier, hearing the noise, went up to the room, and for one hour and twenty minutes perfect order reigned. He had entire control of the children, but in the whole time they had learned nothing. On the other hand, some teachers have the gift of attractive presentation of their subject, but are so lacking in the power to control their class that the children, as a matter of fact, take none of the instruction in. It is also a great thing to try and realise one's ignorance. Young students are taught well, and naturally feel they know a great deal, but it is best to prepare them to realise that on going out into the world they will meet many people who, perhaps, do not know some of the things that *they* know, but will have other knowledge that can only come as the result of a long series of experiences. People who tried to teach without training were morally guilty, for bad teaching was paid for in children's lives. A brilliant student may come up from his University, and experiment for two or three terms on classes: at the end of that time through many blunders he may have become a capable teacher, but he has gained his experience at the children's expense. Therefore, in preventing this contingency among the Blind, the College was embarking upon a thoroughly good and laudable work.

Sir Ellis Cunliffe, in seconding the resolution, remarked that it was quite obvious that the good work which had been initiated, and was now carried on by the College of Teachers of the Blind should be heartily commended and supported in every possible way, since through it the whole status of blind education would be appreciably raised. He himself was new to the work of the College, having had more to do with the technical training of those who had already left school, but he recognised it as an undoubted fact that if children could be thoroughly well grounded in ordinary subjects, and some beginning made in

manual ones before reaching the age of 16, it was impossible to over estimate the benefit that would accrue both to children and teachers. The College was young as yet, and was apparently working on very modest lines to begin with, as could be seen by reference to the statement of accounts. He was glad to see how excellent a body of examiners had been appointed, so much depending upon the choice of them, and with regard to the compulsory and optional subjects, he rather thought that some of the optional ones should be made compulsory, and that teachers should, after passing, be encouraged to qualify later in subjects which they had not taken up for their examination so as to become fully qualified under all heads of teaching; extra certificates could be granted from time to time on their so passing; the system of continuing the training of teachers by lectures and addresses was an excellent one.

It was proposed by Mr. Stuart Johnson, seconded by Mr. H. W. Illingworth, and resolved "That Sir William Turner, Principal of Edinburgh University, be, and he is hereby appointed a Vice-President of the College."

Mr. Stuart Johnson said: Though I do not know Sir William Turner personally, I am sure that in desiring to add his name to those of the distinguished men under whose shadow the College pursues its noble aims, we are doing ourselves honour. I was going to say that I am always inclined to believe in Scottish intellect, but I am informed that Sir William is not a Scot; however, at Edinburgh University, they do not, I believe, suffer fools gladly, whether native or imported.

Sir William Turner's fame rests upon the teaching of anatomy, and he must assuredly feel a sympathy with our work of placing teaching upon a high level. It is to be hoped that every fresh personage added to our list of supporters will be duly instructed in the unscientific character of the official policy now pursued in respect to blind teachers of the Blind. Our Chairman, Professor Adams, in a little book called "A Primer of Education," has advised teachers to take the very copy of a book they read when children and to ask their elders, if any surviving, where and how they used to read it. They are to go

into the room where they used to read, take the attitude they used to take and thus, as they read, learn again the mind of the child.

But, ladies and gentlemen, the sighted teacher has no past in respect of which he can touch the blind child ; his thought can never wander up the avenues by which impressions have reached his pupil. If blindness is a deprivation, sight is a distraction, and the distracted does not best help the deprived.

It is obvious that the best sighted teachers of the Blind are those who can, in imagination, enter within the veil, but even they cannot completely let the curtain they have lifted, fall behind them and learn with their pupils to see in the dark. The truth is that the education of the Blind is the sphere of the expert, and this College is an effort, and a successful effort, to take it out of that of the general educationalist. We need the co-operation of men like Sir William Turner to show that our efforts have the approval of men of science.

Mr. Illingworth, in seconding, remarked that he had studied anatomy under Sir W. Turner.

The Chairman having announced that the Rev. Arthur Taylor was unable to accept office again on account of pressure of other duties, it was moved by Dr. Ranger, seconded by Miss Beatrice Taylor, and resolved "That Messrs. A. B. Norwood, A. P. Pearson, H. W. P. Pine, H. M. Taylor, and W. Ernest Taylor, be, and they are hereby re-elected members of the Committee."

Dr. Ranger, after expressing his appreciation of the resolution being entrusted to his care, said that, to such an audience as he had the pleasure of addressing, it would be superfluous in the extreme for him to attempt to justify the existence of the College, or the duties it existed to discharge for the Blind ; but he hoped it would not be without interest if he attempted briefly to indicate the origin and position of the College historically, and the peculiar nature of the office it was designed to fulfil for the Blind. During the past century the question of the education of the young had acquired an entirely new position, and had entered on a career of increasing influence and importance

until it was now amongst the most important of the subjects which claimed the attention of the State. During this period every civilised Government had recognised the claim of the young to a share of the knowledge of his day, and to be instructed therein, and had, at the same time, acknowledged the corresponding obligation on their part to provide the desired instruction; and also further, that to provide the needed instruction in a way which would adequately meet the claim, they had acknowledged that it was necessary to provide a proper supply of duly qualified and trained persons to give the instruction.

Now, if these propositions were true for the Sighted, how much more cogent were they for the Blind! If a sighted child was entitled to be educated, how much clearer and stronger was the claim of the blind child! If the obligation of the State was clear to provide the Sighted with instruction, how much more imperative was it in respect of the Blind! And—and this was the proposition which interested us to-day—if the obligation could only be properly discharged by the Sighted by providing a due supply of duly qualified and trained instructors, how much greater was the need of such duly qualified teachers for the Blind! It was in the recognition of the force of this position that, with a truly splendid altruism, the philanthropists who had founded the College had been moved, and amongst the philanthropists were the gentlemen he had now the honour of proposing should be re-elected to the Executive Committee of the College.

As to the importance of the work of the College, if a suitable education was an essential to enable a sighted child to enjoy life and to take his proper share in it, it was to a blind child a veritable passage from darkness to light—the difference between a dull monotony of inaction in a life of darkness to taking an active interest in the affairs of the day. And in respect of others, let no man think that, however important education might be to the Blind for themselves, their education was a matter of slight importance to the community around them. It was not the occasion for him to dilate on the contributions of individual blind people to the well-being of their day and

generation ; but it was a fact that from the days of sweetly singing Sappho, and the epic-writing Homer, down in our modern days to our Miltons, Fawcetts, Kellers, Armitages, and Taylors, the Blind, as a class, had always provided members who had made great, valuable, and lasting contributions to the good of their fellow creatures. There were 33,000 blind people in this country, 600,000 in India, 150,000 in Egypt, and with others in Canada, Australia, South Africa, and other Possessions of the Empire, there were approximately a million blind people under the benign influence of the Union Jack. Who shall say what these blind people if properly educated and trained in the use of the knowledge gained, mentally, physically, and, above all, morally, would contribute to the furtherance of the interests of the Human Race.

There was one other aspect of the work of the College to which he desired to draw attention. The College was an emphatic and picturesque expression of the change which had taken place in the view of blindness and the Blind. In the old days, the blind philanthropist fastened his attention on the severity of the affliction, and practically neglected altogether the abilities and faculties which were left to the blind man after the deduction of his sight. The effect of this view of blindness was very uncertain. Sometimes, it led to providing the blind man with his maintenance and even to his deification ; at others, to his entire destruction as the cause of the local pestilence, famine, or other disaster. The modern view was the converse of this. It recognised the wealth of faculties and abilities that was left to the blind man, and while not withholding a due sympathy and consideration for his affliction, the blind philanthropist really centred all his attention on the wealth of abilities and faculties left to the blind man after the deduction of his sight. Upon the recognition of these and the possibilities for the blind man which the due education and training of them would provide, was the sure, and the only sure, basis on which to build a system of sound education and training for the Blind. The College recognised this to the full, and upon that footing carried on its beneficent work, and would carry it on, he had

no doubt, with an ever-increasing measure of success to the infinite advantage of the Blind.

Miss Beatrice Taylor said she had much pleasure in seconding the proposal made by Dr. Ranger, for she was sure if the minds of the children could understand, and if their voices could be heard, they would, undoubtedly, give many a cheer for this Committee. She saw no member of it whose life was not already full to overflowing with work for the cause of the Blind in some form or other, and yet on they went, adding with unstinted energy, one more thing—this very important thing—the working of a machinery to ensure that those from whom the blind child receives its education, shall be duly qualified for their important work. Then, a word about the teachers themselves, and very specially those of them who are blind, who bore such splendid testimony to the work of Sir Francis and Lady Campbell, whose absence they regretted to-day. Here she could speak with a somewhat unique knowledge, as her work of trying to brighten the lives of the blind children by means other than lessons, brought her into contact with the teachers of the Blind in a very special way—throwing side-lights on their unselfishness of character, and their unceasing vigilance over, and solicitude for, their little charges. She was often amazed at their moral fibre, their self-restraint, and their consequent strong influence for good, over the blind children in the schools.

Her last word was from the point of view of the blind child—his idea of the teachers' examination. She received from these children in schools all over England and Scotland numerous little Braille letters telling her of their joys and sorrows, and showing forth many side-lights from the child's standpoint, and the way in which things strike *them*. She added she would only divulge in confidence one piece of secret intelligence imparted to her by one of these children. It was written by a little boy, one of those selected to form a class at an examination of teachers for testing their skill in handling such a class. He wrote thus: "I went last week to the Examination of Teachers at Linden Lodge. I enjoyed it very much."

It was proposed by Mr. Pine, who referred with much friendly detail to each individual mentioned in the resolution, and seconded by Mr. W. Ernest Taylor, and resolved "That the best thanks of this meeting be presented to the Honorary Officers for their valuable services rendered during the past year, and that Mr. Henry J. Wilson, the Hon. Arthur M. Kinnaird, Dr. A. W. G. Ranger, Mr. Henry Stainsby, and Messrs. Drury, Thurgood, Hatfield and Co., be, and they are hereby re-appointed Chairman, Treasurer, Solicitor, Registrar, and Auditors respectively for the current year."

It was moved by the Hon. Registrar, seconded by Mr. H. W. P. Pine, and resolved "That Mr. Lister S. Smith be, and is hereby elected a member of the Council."

It was moved by Mr. Henry J. Wilson, seconded by the Rev. St. Clare Hill, and resolved "That the best thanks of this meeting be presented to Professor Adams for his kindness in presiding at this meeting; also to Sir Ellis Cunliffe for taking so useful and prominent a part in the proceedings."

Mr. Wilson thanked Professor Adams and Sir Ellis Cunliffe for kindly coming to the meeting on a Saturday afternoon to support the work of the College. He welcomed the former, so well known in the education world, in order that he might see the efforts being made to improve the education of blind children by testing and raising the qualifications of their teachers. He also welcomed Sir Ellis Cunliffe, and referred to the good work he had done, and was doing as Chairman of the West London Workshops for the Blind, and as an active member of the Workshops for the Blind of London Federation Board and in other ways.

On the motion of Mr. Henry J. Wilson, it was resolved unanimously to send a message of sympathy to Sir Francis Campbell, who was prevented from attending the meeting on account of illness.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SUPERINTENDENTS AND HEADS OF INSTITUTIONS AND WORKSHOPS FOR THE BLIND IN ENGLAND AND WALES in re THE EMPLOYMENT OF BLIND TEACHERS.

This meeting was held at the office of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W., on Saturday, February 17th, at 11 a.m.

On the motion of Mr. Pine, of Nottingham, seconded by Mr. Illingworth, of Manchester, Mr. Henry J. Wilson was unanimously elected to the chair. The Chairman said that it was unnecessary for him to say more than a few words as an introduction to this important subject about to be discussed, but he was sure they all regretted, as much as he did himself, that the present condition of Sir Francis Campbell's health prevented him from attending the meeting, and he desired Lady Campbell to convey to Sir Francis the hope of those present for a speedy recovery. The Chairman said he thought it would be well to make a short statement of the causes that led up to the meeting, as many present were probably unaware of them. Briefly they were these: Sir Francis Campbell, as Principal of the Royal Normal College, and one also who had been engaged as a teacher of the Blind for over sixty years, had found it more difficult each year to secure appointments for blind teachers, and when this fact was brought to the notice of the Executive Committee of the Metropolitan Union of Societies for the Blind, they unanimously requested Sir Francis to summon a meeting of Superintendents. This he kindly did and at the same time sent a copy of the following memorandum and resolution, drawn up by a Sub-Committee, consisting of Sir Francis and Lady Campbell, Mr. Guy Campbell, Mr. Stainsby, and Mr. H. J. Wilson. The Chairman concluded by saying that the crisis was caused by the very sad case of Miss Adams, referred to in the memorandum, and he hoped that not only would the resolution be passed unanimously, but that some action on it would be taken at once.

The Memorandum as to employment of Blind Teachers was as follows :

“Owing to the fact that there is a growing tendency not to employ qualified blind teachers, and that this prejudice, if allowed to increase, will affect not only those who are already successfully employed, but those who are taking up Training College work, we submit the following facts ;—

At the present time a large number of blind persons are engaged in teaching in classes and institutions for the Blind (at the Meeting it is hoped to announce the exact number), and their livelihood will be seriously affected if this prejudice is not arrested.

For the last ten years it has been more and more difficult to obtain positions for those blind persons who take a Training College Course and pass the Government Examination for Teacher's Certificate, or the Examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind. Recently a new residential school has been built at Gorleston for the blind children of the Eastern Counties. The new joint Board of Management, consisting of twenty-two members, passed a resolution ‘That no blind teacher should be employed as a member of the staff of the school.’

Owing to this resolution, Miss Nellie Adams, a Gardner Scholar and Graduate of the Smith Training College, who has taught successfully for twelve years a class for blind children under the Norwich Educational Council, and holds a Government Certificate, is rendered ineligible. These children will be transferred to the new school at Gorleston, but Miss Adams has been informed that her services are no longer required, and that no application from a blind person will be considered.

It is generally admitted that a combination of blind and sighted teachers on the staff of a blind school, produces the best results. To counteract the prevalent prejudice, and secure fair treatment for properly qualified blind teachers, strong steps must be taken immediately. It is therefore suggested that a resolution on similar lines to the following be agreed to ;—

That whereas experience has proved that a combination of blind and sighted teachers on the staff of any institution for the Blind produces the best educational results, because

(a) The teacher being blind, realises the needs and difficulties of the pupils better than a sighted teacher.

(b) The blind teacher far excels his sighted colleagues in making clear those subjects where the apparatus used is especially adapted for the Blind.

(c) The presence of the blind teacher in the school acts as a stimulating example and inspiration to the pupils.

Be it therefore resolved :

“ That this representative Meeting will use its best endeavours to promote the employment of duly qualified blind teachers in schools for the Blind ; and further, will sanction, approve, and assist any effort which will have the effect of removing the prejudice against the employment of duly qualified blind teachers.”

Before calling on Lady Campbell to move the resolution, the Chairman requested Mr. Guy Campbell, who was acting as Hon. Secretary, to make a statement as to the replies he had received, and to read extracts from some of them.

Mr. Guy Campbell reported that 52 letters had been issued to the Superintendents in England and Wales ; that 28 replies from those unable to attend the meeting had been received, and that in every instance the writers were in favour of immediate action to remove the growing prejudice against the employment of blind teachers.

Mr. Thurman reported that the Birmingham Institution was employing ten blind teachers out of a staff of 34, with the most satisfactory results.

Mr. Illingworth, of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester, reported 8 out of a staff of 22.

Miss Kate Ellis, Headmistress of the Leeds School, states : “ My experience here as Headmistress for the past 12½ years, gives me an opportunity of saying that I have found the blind teachers on my staff to be capable of good work—conscientious

—always willing to further or promote anything to advance the education of blind children.”

Mr. Robertson, of Newcastle, states : “ There are two blind teachers in this school—one in charge of the music department, and the other is responsible for Standard IV., but also takes the infants’ class for certain subjects, as I find she can produce better results in these subjects.”

Mr. Joseph Hall, of Swansea, quotes from the report of H.M. Inspector, of January, 1912 : “ A satisfactory feature of the school work is the training in music. The new teacher of music has made a success of her branch of the work, and has infused life and joyousness into the pupils through her art.”

Mr. A. B. Norwood, York, writes : “ I am strongly of opinion—and I have given this matter very full consideration and study during the ten years I have been engaged in work for the Blind—that as your memorandum puts it, a combination of blind and sighted teachers on the staff of a blind school produces the best results. So much so, that we have no department of the school work that is not worked on these lines. I cordially endorse the reasons (a), (b) and (c), on page 2 of your memorandum, and strongly approve the resolution to be moved.

In the vexed question of supervision, we have an instance on our staff of a supervision by influence which is quite as effective as any supervision by sight; and as a result of 25 years’ school work with sighted pupils and colleagues, I have come to the conclusion that there can be an entire lack of real supervision even by those who have sight, whilst there can be the best kind of supervision by those we call the Blind.

Look at Mr. Albert Siddall when he has his class for boot-making and repairing! And there are many like him.”

The Chairman, having thanked Lady Campbell for kindly leaving her husband’s side to come to the Meeting, asked her to move the resolution, and this she did in the following words :—

“ Having taught with blind teachers as colleagues, both in the United States and England, and having had the supervision of classes taught by them for more than 40 years, I feel no hesitation in recommending their employment. The reasons are

set forth in the Preamble contained in the Resolution sent out with the notices convening this Meeting, but I would like to deal with the main objection, the inability to supervise and maintain discipline, and show how it can be overcome. In every walk of life a favourable environment and the fulfilment of certain conditions are necessary before success can be achieved. The superlative genius, or the man of indomitable perseverance, may succeed in spite of adverse circumstances, but most of us require a certain measure of assistance. I wish to point out some of the conditions essential to the success of blind teachers, viz. :—

1. The hearty co-operation of other members of the staff.
2. The maintenance of good order and discipline in classes held by the sighted teachers, thus establishing a fixed standard of conduct in the minds of the children.
3. The inculcation of a sense of honour and love of fair play in the children, that will lead them to regard the taking advantage of a blind teacher as a mean action.
4. The other members of the staff should report to the blind teachers the awkward positions or mannerisms of the members of their class, so that they may be on the lookout for them, and correct any which had escaped notice.
5. The class room should be situated where occasional observation can be secured.
6. It is an advantage for any teacher (blind or sighted) of blind children, to have them arranged so that one can pass behind the back of the seats. It enables one to examine easily the work on the type-board, maps, &c. In the case of blind teachers, it is absolutely essential that they should be able to pass amongst the pupils to examine the work, correct bad positions, and more easily detect whispering, or other disorder.

I think the fulfilment of these conditions would enable a qualified blind teacher easily to maintain discipline. If a blind teacher can pass freely among the pupils in the class room, the ear will serve instead of the eye to detect causes of disorder, and

the occasional placing of the hand upon the chair, will show the position of the pupil, even if not detected by the sound of the voice. I well remember the surprise of a dishonest pupil, when the hand he reached out to copy a comrade's answer from the type-board, fell on the hand of the teacher. I need not tell you that an impression was produced on the mind of that class that dishonesty did not pay. I once visited the class of a blind teacher in Clerkenwell, and found that she was managing and maintaining discipline in a class where the ages varied from five to fourteen, and was also looking after a little baby aged two, whom she begged the mother to send to her class, rather than have his blind sister kept at home to take care of him. I could give many instances to show that an alert blind teacher can maintain order in a class room as well as a sighted teacher. When I taught in the Perkins Institution, South Boston, the entire supervision of the boys' dormitories was under a blind man, and irregularities were almost unknown. While some may doubt the ability of blind teachers to supervise out of the classroom, they certainly can be able seconds in the matter of supervision.

In the recent examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind, five out of the six blind candidates passed—one with honours in five subjects, and only eighteen out of thirty sighted candidates. There are now sixty-one graduates of the Royal Normal College employed in various schools and classes for the Blind, and in nearly every instance their work is satisfactory. There are many other blind teachers besides these, whose positions will be jeopardised by this growing tendency to replace them by sighted teachers. It is certainly the duty of those who are training the Blind, to do all that is possible to promote their employment.

When you study the "History of the Education of the Blind," you will find that the Blind themselves have played an important part. It is true, the Institution in Paris was founded by Valentin Haüy, but he was the friend of Mlle. Paradis, and her example may have had great influence in the development of his scheme of education. England owes its first Blind School to

Edward Rushton, the brave sailor, who lost his sight caring for the slaves. When the whole wretched cargo of an African slaver was seized with ophthalmia, no one dared to venture into the hold except Rushton. He went daily to minister to them in their neglect and destitution, with the result that he returned to England a blind man. In connection with Mr. Christie, a blind music teacher in Liverpool, Rushton's idea of a benefit club was changed into a plan for establishing a school. Many blind teachers could be mentioned who have been the means of establishing various schools and workshops. Wherever the enthusiasm that gave the first impulse has died out, and the work of any school or institution has become dead and mechanical, you will generally find it is a blind teacher who has brought new life, and been the means of an onward movement. Louis Braille, by his perfection of a point system, opened a new world to the Blind of his own country, which Dr. Armitage, by his zeal and generosity, extended to the English-speaking world. Sir Francis Campbell, by his insistence upon the principle, that the Blind in order to succeed, must have a training equal to the Sighted, with whom they have to compete, revolutionised the educational training of the Blind.

Knowing as I do, what blind people have accomplished in the past, and what they are doing to-day, I have great pleasure in moving the resolution."

In seconding the resolution Mr. Stainsby remarked that his experience of blind teachers extended over a period of thirty-two years, and he could say, unhesitatingly, that blind teachers of the Blind were among the very best of all the teachers he had known. It is true they have their limitations in some subjects where sight is essential, but in those peculiar to the Blind, he far excelled his sighted co-worker, for he approached his pupil from a right standpoint. Being himself blind he realized the difficulties of his blind pupil, and knew how to meet them as no sighted person could. Mr. Stainsby pointed out the engagement of a blind teacher undoubtedly carried with it the imposition of a little more work on other (sighted) teachers and officials, but this apparent disadvantage was more than counter-

balanced by the superior special work of the blind teacher. He urged that the Committee of Schools for the Blind should remember that inasmuch as these Institutions were founded for the Blind, it is only reasonable that the maximum number of blind persons should be engaged in them in an official capacity. Mr. Guy Campbell having reported to the meeting that the Superintendents were practically unanimous in their advocacy of blind teachers, it appeared to him (the speaker) that there was only one conclusion he could come to, namely, that the Board of Education was prejudiced against blind teachers. If so, steps should be taken to remove that prejudice by endeavouring to convince the Board that the blind teacher is a *necessity* in our Schools. Continuing, Mr. Stainsby stated that he should not rest until the question was settled in favour of the employment of suitable blind teachers. He came to that meeting with special instructions from his Council to advocate the claims of the blind teacher. In conclusion, the speaker remarked that since he had been connected with the British and Foreign Blind Association nothing had impressed him so much as the fact that most of the best apparatus used for the education of the Blind had been invented by blind persons.

A most interesting discussion followed in support of the resolution, in which the following took part:—Mr. Illingworth (Manchester), Mr. Littlewood (Liverpool), Lt.-Col. Jolly (Preston), the Rev. C. F. Hardy (Bristol), Miss Garaway (Linden Lodge, L.C.C.), Mr. Pine (Nottingham), Mr. Martin (Swiss Cottage School, London), Miss Petty (Assistant Superintendent, L.C.C.), Miss Woodhead (Barclay Home, Brighton), Miss Foakes (East London School, Clapton), and Mr. Guy Campbell (Royal Normal College).

The resolution having been put to the meeting and carried unanimously, the Chairman thanked the speakers for so freely expressing their opinions, and hoped that in order that something definite might be done in the matter, a special sub-committee would be appointed for the purpose of carrying into effect the resolution, as far as possible.

This was agreed to, and the following were elected on the Committee:—Lady Campbell, Mr. Guy Campbell, Mr. Illingworth, Mr. Littlewood, Mr. Norwood, Mr. Pine, Mr. Stainsby, and Mr. H. J. Wilson.

After instructions had been given by the meeting to the Committee as to the general line of action, the proceedings terminated.

PRIZE FESTIVAL OF THE ROYAL NORMAL COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND.

SPEECH BY MRS. WESTLAKE.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have the greatest possible pleasure in coming here to-day to say a few words in answer to Sir Francis Campbell's kind request. Whenever Sir Francis asks me to do anything, I always feel bound to do it in the admiration and regard one has for him, and although my words will be much too feeble for the subject, yet they come from my heart, and I wish them to be as sincere and strong as possible. After a long acquaintance and an intimate one, with the work that is going on here, I am probably entitled to have a closer opinion of that work than most of you here, because my acquaintance with the College dates back to 35 years ago. I was at that time on the London School Board, and I was very much distressed to find that the teaching of the blind children under that Board was not satisfactory. There were untrained teachers quite incompetent for the work, who went round from house to house and gave what little assistance they could. I asked the advice of Sir Francis Campbell, and his advice was that nothing but trained teachers should be used for the instruction of these children. I am thankful to say that the School Board engaged teachers trained at the College for the children who were gathered into the various classes, and these teachers are still in the Council Schools. The truth is, that blind teachers have much more patience and take much more trouble with, and more interest in, their pupils, and the minute details of the work,

than those that have sight. The arrangement which was made 35 years ago and is still working, will, I hope, remain in force as long as the Blind exist.

Now, the one great note of this school is that it is strenuous. No one is allowed to loiter here, or to do things by halves ; everyone is encouraged to do his or her very best and very hardest, and the result is the admirable concert we have had this afternoon. Nothing could have produced this result except the very best teaching. The truth is that the foundation is widely and strongly laid, and upon it the builders have erected a strong super-structure, and nothing is allowed to live here but that which is first rate. Typewriting is taught here in a most scientific and businesslike way. It is not only taught as an art, but in a much more intelligent way, and the scholars are trained to take an intelligent interest in their work, the result being that they produce excellent typists. I want all of you here to help the work on in that one way in which most people can help, that is, by finding more employment for the Blind who are here. We are told that there are teachers here who are waiting for employment and cannot get work because people are always more or less prejudiced against the Blind. But this prejudice virtually disappears when the Blind are tested, and I am sure that all employers will testify to the excellent work they do. Any little temporary disturbance that may be caused by the introduction of blind teachers is soon overcome, for they fall into the way of sighted teachers very quickly, and do the work without difficulty.

There is another thing I wish you could do, and that is to lift the incubus of debt off Sir Francis's shoulders. That great weight of debt presses heavily on the school and upon Sir Francis Campbell, and he has really done much wonderful work to raise the whole condition and status of the blind people in England. I should like Sir Francis to feel that this great work was rising unsullied and untouched by any drawback whatever, and that he might go on with the work feeling that it was proceeding in a way that was bound to make it prosperous and more successful, if possible, in its results. There should be no

money strain or financial difficulties pressing upon this work, nor cares weighing upon a thing like this. I think this place is an extraordinary proof of what can be done in surmounting difficulties. These pupils come here handicapped to a great degree, but yet they are put in the way of completely overcoming their difficulties and becoming independent and equal to their seeing brothers and sisters. This is a most remarkable result, and it only shows that by patience and perseverance and courage any difficulties can be overcome. Sir Francis Campbell himself, of course, has suffered under this great difficulty, but he has never allowed it to stand in the way of his work, and has always done what sighted people have been able to do without any drawback from his handicap. Others have followed his example, and have proved that with patience, courage, and perseverance, we can overcome all difficulties.

THE BLIND AND THE CENSUS OF 1911.

By W. C. Rockliffe, M.A.. M.B. Cantab.
M.R.C.S.

Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon, Hull Royal Infirmary, Hon. Treasurer, Secretary and Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Hull Blind Institution, Late Vice-President of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom.

Under the above heading, *The Blind*, of October last, published a most interesting paper by Dr. Bishop Harman, clearly showing the utterly worthless value of the present Census returns as to the number of those actually blind in the United Kingdom, especially as in the 1911 Census, the returns were made under the heading of "Totally Blind," without any definition of the meaning of the term.

This at once raises the question, to which, for many years, I have been trying (in vain) to obtain an answer, viz., "When is a person to be considered blind," or, in other words, "What amount of defective vision should qualify an individual to be classified as blind," and so entitle him or her to be, not only included in the Census returns as blind, but also eligible for one

of the many blind charities, or (as an inmate or member of any Blind Institution), privileged to claim the benefits of the said Institution, as entrusted by the British public to the various Committees, to be expended for the benefit of the Blind.

Hence the simple question, "When is a person to be considered blind?" With the above object, those of your readers who were present at the Conference—"On matters relating to the Blind"—held in London in 1902, will recollect my reading a paper on this particular subject, and in the discussion that followed, the Registrar-General stated that further inquiry into the statistics of the Blind returned in 1901 Census in Ireland showed that less than four-fifths of the number originally stated to be blind in the schedules were "totally blind," which he presumed, meant "had no perception of light," adding that in 1911 they might endeavour to make such enquiries as would enable them to say more positively whether the people returned as blind are totally or partially blind. Again, in March last, I wrote the *Yorkshire Post* previous to the taking of the Census, and also several Institutions, etc., including an official of the North of England Union of Blind Societies, etc., who had published figures relating to the number of their Blind, asking "What standard of defective vision they recognised in the statement of their numbers?" and in every case I found they had no standard of measurement. Surely, with such unsatisfactory replies, a definite line ought to be fixed, in order that the public may not be misled when they are accused of insufficiency of workshops, accommodation, support, etc., as a proof of the necessity of State Aid, which has been followed by the recently proposed "Blind Aid Bill."

There is no doubt that the Census, to be of any statistical value, should divide those with imperfect sight into 1st, "Blind," 2nd, "Defective Vision," as proposed to the Registrar-General by the deputation who waited upon him on this subject, and it is disappointing that he did not think fit to act on their and his own (or his predecessor's) above quoted 1902 Conference-suggestion, in the Census of 1911.

Referring to the above mentioned letter to the *Yorkshire Post*, I stated those with defective vision can be divided into three classes :—

(1) No perception of light. These only, I contend, are “Totally Blind.”

(2) Includes the intermediate class (and this is where the difficulty asserts itself). Again the subdivision comes in with :—

(a) Those who can differentiate, *i.e.*, able to count the upheld fingers at varying distances.

(b) Those who cannot differentiate, but can only see an object (*e.g.* the hand) moving at varying distances from the face.

(3) Those able to read the ordinary Test Type, *viz.*, 6/60, *i.e.*, can read at a distance of 20 feet what a normally sighted person can read at 200 feet ; these are not blind.

It is clear Class 1 is blind in every sense of the word, and Class 3 is not blind in the true meaning of the term.

My personal definition of Class 2 has for many years been that only those included under the above section (b), and of section (a), only those who cannot differentiate (that is count fingers) at a greater distance than *three feet*, should be classified as blind, and I based my argument on the practical fact that a basket-maker, ship-fender-maker, cane chair seater, &c., who could do more than this, could distinguish his rods, strands and canes, thereby placing his less fortunate fellow-workmen at a considerable disadvantage, especially where a bonus at the end of the year is divided in proportion to the wages earned.

I note in Dr. Bishop Harman's paper he also defines the Blind “As those whose vision does not enable them to do more than distinguish fingers up to the distance of 1 metre.” This, of course, is practically the same definition as my own.

Those who are classified as “partially blind” (and probably if young, educated in a blind school) are certainly the class needing assistance at any time, but especially on leaving school but with my above definition, many are ineligible to participate in workshops and funds contributed for the Blind. To benefit these, we in Hull admit them under the title of “Defective

Sight" to our workshops as journeymen, and further include them in Special Entertainments, such as Summer Outings and Christmas Distribution of gifts, and also occasionally give them clothing, &c., from our Sick Benefit Branch, but they do not participate in our bonus of wages earned, or the full benefits of our Sick Benefit, &c., Branch. All, however, (reading Braille, etc.) have the use of the library and our dining room, where occasionally free dinners are provided, and I would suggest this to other towns, as a means of assisting this class, as well as being able to keep an eye on their moral and spiritual welfare.

Further, I limit the amount of defective vision in those classified as partially blind (in section *a*) to those who, although able to differentiate at a greater distance than 3 feet, yet are unable to see more than 6/60, *i.e.*, I exclude from this class those who can see at 20 feet what a normally sighted person can readily define with or without glasses at 200 feet.

Should my suggestion be adopted, it seems to me it would be a very simple matter to divide the Census paper of 1921 into

BLIND, *i.e.*, those who are unable to count upheld fingers in a good light at a greater distance than 3 feet with or without spectacles.

PARTIALLY BLIND, *i.e.*, those who are unable to count fingers at a greater distance than 20 feet, with or without spectacles.

It has been suggested that the definition of the term blind should be left to the Medical Profession. Granted no better source could be had for determining the exact scientific amount of Defect of Vision. Nevertheless, the question "What amount of Defective Vision should qualify an individual to be classified as blind," would remain unanswered. This, *the vital question*, I contend, is one which could only be answered by those who are most intimate with blind workshops, and experienced in, and thoroughly cognizant of, the habits and customs, &c., of the Blind.

Further, it has been proposed this definition should take the form of "those unable to obtain their own living by an ordinary sighted occupation." Here, again, is a want of scientific limitation, and further would increase the number of so-called blind enormously, and surely it was never intended by the founder of the many blind charities that such should participate in his or her generosity, as compared with those having "No Perception of Light," but if he or she is so classified as blind, they naturally would claim these benefits, which would be disputed by those with greater defect of vision, and thereby entail considerable increased responsibility on the Executive, who would, in defence, have to draw up a further definition of those entitled to their funds.

After 36 years of medical experience and 26 years of intimate association with the Honorary Management of Blind Workshops, &c., in addition to the Homes of the Blind, I venture to suggest that the only definition of a blind person is contained in the few above remarks. At the same time, I shall be pleased if any readers of *The Blind* will express their views in opposition or support of the same.

Bearing on this subject, I have it from the Registrar General that the 1911 statistics of blind persons are not yet available, but the 1901 Census returned the Blind :—

Of the United Kingdom as, 32,823 in a population of 41,458,721, *i.e.*, 1·263 per 1,000.

Of Hull, as 214 in a population of 240,259, *i.e.*, 1·122 per 1,000.

We believe the Hull Blind Institution includes every really blind person in the City, and the number on our list in 1901 was 189, so that with my above definition as to when a person ought to be classified as blind, probably 25 or about 10% of the 214 returned in the Census of 1911 should really have been classified as "Defective Vision," or "Partially Blind." If this is correct, it would reduce the actual number of blind in the United Kingdom in 1901 from 32,823 to 29,543 or thereabouts.

The Blind.

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All communications for the next number must be sent on or before September 18th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Dr. R. N. Hartley, of Leeds, which took place on May 21st. Born in York in 1854, he was educated at Woodhouse Grove School, and shortly after leaving commenced the study of medicine. His career was crippled at the outset. He was struck down in the street by a blow on the head, from the effects of which he never recovered, and which left him throughout life subject, particularly at times of stress, to slight epileptic attacks.

For many years he was one of the Hon. Surgeons at the Leeds Dispensary, and gave lavishly of his time and strength to the poorest, being always ready to respond to a call for help by day or night. He was afterwards for some years one of the Consulting Surgeons at the Infirmary, and Professor of Public Health at the Leeds University. He was also Hon. Oculist and Ophthalmic Surgeon at the School for Blind Children, and at the Institution for Adults. He personally kept a record of every child admitted into the school, and spared no pains when possible to preserve or strengthen the little sight which might remain. But apart from his services as a physician, every child

in the school from the youngest to the oldest considered the Doctor as his own personal friend. When at the age of 16 the children were obliged to leave the school he did not lose sight of them. If a pupil showed capacity for further training, Dr. Hartley would never rest until the boy or girl was given the opportunity to make the most of his or her abilities. He would even send a pupil to the Royal Normal College himself, so that the training might commence without delay—afterwards visiting the neighbourhood of the child's home and obtaining the interest and help of the people of influence.

The Rev. Dr. Findlay in his address at the funeral service said: "In his thirty years of practice how many he has succoured of the most distressed. But it was not surgical and professional aid alone that he rendered, there was with, and beyond all such ministry an intensity of spirit, a sense of the deeper needs and griefs lying behind physical trouble, a care for men as men, and an eagerness to spend and be spent for the good of his fellows that consumed him like a passion. No cost would he spare himself of aught that made for the salvation of another, either in body or in soul."

It was our pleasure to know him for many years, and when he came to London, he generally used to call on us to talk about some blind pupils in whom he was specially interested, and whom he willingly assisted with his valuable advice and money.

The Chairman of the Leeds Education Committee at a meeting held on May 22nd referred to Dr. Hartley's work for the blind and deaf children of the city, and advised the Committee to place on record his services so unselfishly and ungrudgingly given. To this the members, rising to their feet, assented. His long service in the cause of the Blind will be gratefully remembered by those who knew him, and especially by those individual blind persons, whom he befriended and cheered and put in the way of earning their living.

2. We have to announce with much regret the sudden death on June 13th of Mr. Thomas Schofield, Manager of the Preston Workshop for the Blind, where he had been for 46

years. He was very fond of walking, and walked to London and back on two occasions. He was a man of noble qualities, an eloquent speaker, and his face beamed with happiness and intelligence. He was very fortunate in some investments he made, with the result that he left a legacy of £1,000 to the Institution, and also £100 to be divided amongst the blind men working there.

3. The Rev. Wilfrid A. Schofield, B.A., formerly a Gardner scholar at the Royal Normal College and a Fawcett Memorial scholar at St. Edmund's Hall, Oxford, and a graduate with 2nd class Honours in Modern History, has recently left Wimbledon, where he has been a Curate since his ordination, June 6th, 1909, and has gone to work in his native town as Assistant Curate of St. Andrew's, Huddersfield. His services at Wimbledon, were much appreciated, and in the Wimbledon Parish *Magazine* for June the Vicar writes: "Mr. Schofield has endeared himself to all with whom, or for whom, he has worked; his courage and devotion have enabled him to overcome the limitations of his blindness in a remarkable degree, and the steady persistency of his visiting in his district in Cottenham Park will continue to bear fruit for years to come."

4. In the October number of *The Blind*, 1906, we gave in paragraph 5 an account of the remarkable and now famous botanist, Mr. John Grimshaw Wilkinson, of Burley, who is totally blind. He has now a complete acquaintance, by touch or taste, with over 4,000 species of plants, and as he tersely puts it "his hands to him are eyes, his tongue a microscope." He constantly has plants referred to him from all parts of the country and even from abroad, with a request to state their tribes and lineage. Only recently the Superintendent of the Swansea parks submitted to him a specimen, which he at once labelled, and said that it originally came from Australia. A singular compliment was paid him the other day when he was delivering a lecture to an audience that knew him only by reputation or had corresponded with him, by the fact that some of them

never knew until the lecture was concluded that Mr. Wilkinson was blind.

5. At the recent "Midland Musical Competition Festival," held in Birmingham from May 14th to 18th, a little blind child, Dorothy Louise Smalley, aged nine, obtained the highest number of marks for a pianoforte solo in open competition for children under ten years of age. Twenty-two candidates were entered in this competition, twenty-one of whom were sighted children. The test piece was Beethoven's Sonatina in F. Dorothy obtained ninety-four marks out of a possible hundred, the adjudicators remarking that it was an abnormally high percentage. To show yet further their appreciation of her powers the adjudicators asked that she might play the test piece at the concert to be given the same evening in the Birmingham Town Hall. This she did admirably, deepening the good impression created in the morning, and receiving a tremendous ovation from audience and performers alike. At the close of the concert the awards for the day were distributed by Mrs. Edward Cadbury. Dorothy received the first prize of one guinea amid loud applause. She is a little pupil of the Queen Alexandra Kindergarten for the Blind, Harborne, Birmingham (a Branch of the Birmingham Royal Institution) and has been in residence a little over three years. She was first a music pupil of Miss Edith Jones, and later of Miss Olive Rider, L.R.A.M.

6. In April last Elvira Augur, Maud Steel, and Isabella Vass, Students of the Royal Normal College, passed the intermediate examination of the Associated Board of Musicians.

7. The following important announcement has been made by the Committee of the College of Teachers of the Blind:—

All persons interested in the College have long realised the fact that there are teachers of standing, experience, and value who cannot be expected to sit for the College Certificate, but

who should, nevertheless, be recognised by the College as fully qualified to teach the blind.

The matter has had the careful consideration of the Committee and of the Board of Fellows, with the result that the Council have decided that all teachers who have had a continuous service of 15 years expiring 31st December, 1912, in any Certified School for the Blind in Great Britain shall, subject to the approval of the Board of Education in each case, be granted a recognition of Status.

Applications for recognition must reach the Honorary Registrar not later than 24th June, 1913.

This form of recognition will not be repeated, but all teachers will, after the year 1912, be expected to take the College Certificate by examination.

8. The official report of the proceedings of the 3rd Triennial Conference on the Blind held at Exeter in July last is now ready, and copies can be obtained, price 2/10 post free, from Mr. Henry Stainsby, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W. The very serious delay in its issue is much to be regretted, as well as the fact that there are many errors, which ought to have been corrected in the proofs. It is hoped, however, that the readers will be indulgent, when they realize the difficulties under which the report is finally issued. The book consists of 442 pages, and contains all the papers read at the Conference, and the speeches of those who took part in the debates. The names of the General and Local Conference Committees, of the blind preachers and organists, delegates and members, and a list of the exhibits and the regulations for the Conference and Exhibition are also given.

9. The result of the examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind, held at the Royal Institution for the Blind at Birmingham, by the kind permission of the Committee, on 21st, 22nd, and 23rd May, shows that the following have obtained the Certificate of the College:—

Honours.

Adams, Hannah N.	...	Practical Braille, Arithmetic, Braille Music.
Comrie, Alice C. M.	...	Arithmetic.
Fletcher, Ethel ..	...	Practical Braille, Arithmetic.
Gledhill, Ernest ...	...	History of the Education of the Blind.
Gray, Edith M. ...	...	Practical Braille.
Hewitt, Francis E.	...	Practical Braille, Arithmetic, History of the Education of the Blind.
Ingleby, Anne E.	...	Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Arithmetic.
Jones, Cecil V. H.	...	Arithmetic, Typewriting.
Kellaway, Bessie ...	...	Arithmetic, History of the Education of the Blind.
Laidlaw, Adam J.	...	Arithmetic.
Lloyd, Bertram D.	...	Arithmetic, Practical Teaching.
Pearce, Annie E....	...	Kindergarten.
Pearce, Elsie D. ...	...	Theoretical Braille, Practical Teaching.
Wright, Sarah Louisa	...	Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Arithmetic, Practical Teaching.

NOTE.—Two candidates who already hold the College certificate sat for “Honours” at this examination, and of these, one—Miss Lilian A. Hawkins, obtained “Honours” in Hand Knitting.

The examiners this year were the Rev. St. Clare Hill, Miss Lily Bell, Miss Garaway, Mr. W. H. Illingworth, and Mr. W. M. Stone.

Many thanks are due to the Committee of the Royal Institution for the Blind and to the Secretary for their kindness in making arrangements for the examinations to be held in the Institution.

10. The first Holiday Course of Lectures and Demonstration Lessons to Teachers of the Blind was given under the ægis of the College of Teachers of the Blind at Henshaw's Blind

Asylum, Old Trafford, Manchester, on April 9th, 10th, and 11th.

The thanks of the College are due to the Committee of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, and especially to Mr. Illingworth, the Superintendent, for the excellent arrangements made. Great care and thoughtfulness had been expended; and Miss Grant, the Matron, was untiring in her endeavours to provide for the comfort of both the Lecturers and the Students.

There were 25 Students present. The attendance would probably have been larger if the preliminary arrangements had been made earlier, as in many cases the monthly meetings of the committees of the schools had taken place before the notices were issued.

The Course was most successful, and for an initial effort worked very smoothly. The Students appeared to be very much interested, were most attentive and responsive, and expressed themselves as well satisfied with the result.

Henshaw's Blind Asylum Choir provided a concert on Tuesday evening, and the Board of Management gave a Social Evening on the Thursday, at which, including other guests, the number present was 50, and a very pleasant time was spent.

The Superintendent of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, with the consent of his Board, entertained the Lecturers to lunch each day, and on the Wednesday they were joined by the Chairman of the Board, Alderman J. Royle, J.P., and Alderman Wainwright, who afterwards spent some time in the Lecture Hall, and said a few words of welcome and encouragement to Students and Lecturers.

The opinion was freely expressed by the teachers present that in future it would be well to arrange for the Course of Lectures to be held at some holiday resort and to extend over four days.

There were six Lecturers, well-known experts who gave their services gratuitously, viz., the Rev. St. Clare Hill on "Discipline," Miss L. Douglas-Hamilton (who kindly took Mr. Pearson's place at the eleventh hour) on "Braille," Mr. Guy M. Campbell on "Physical Training," Mr. W. H. Illingworth on "Development of the Sense of Touch," Dr. J.

W. Stenhouse on "Eccentric Habits and Movements," and Mr. W. M. Stone on "Principles of Education."

A question box was placed in the Lecture Hall, and Students were invited to write out and place in the box questions they wished to ask the Lecturers about their respective lectures, or about any difficulties they met with in the ordinary course of their daily work.

11. Our hearty congratulations and those also of our readers, we feel sure, are extended to Mr. Tadasu Yoshimoto on his marriage last April to Miss Elsie Margaret Pauling. Mr. Yoshimoto has been well known to most of us for many years as one intensely interested in the Blind, and we wish all happiness to him and Mrs. Yoshimoto.

12. The Local Education Authority at Wakefield has had a blind girl trained for four years as a shorthand writer and typist at the Royal Institution for the Blind at Nottingham, and now intends to give her three months trial in the office. Would that other Education Authorities would follow this excellent example and encourage the blind typists, after they have been thoroughly trained. A fair trial is what they desire in order to show their capabilities, of which so many sighted persons are, through want of proper knowledge, lamentably sceptical.

13. With the next number of *The Blind* we complete the 3rd Vol. of five years, and the 15th year of the issue of the quarterly paper. An index to the numbers for the past five years will, therefore, be sent with the October number, in order that the 20 numbers forming the 3rd Vol. and the index thereto can be bound together. Any numbers required to complete the set, except No. 47, which is out of print, can be obtained, price 3½d. each, post free, from the editor.

14. Miss H. Jocelyn Ffoulkes has consented to act as joint editor of "The Church Messenger" Braille Magazine with Mrs. W. H. Langton, who has been sole editor hitherto. The

Magazine is embossed at the Royal Blind Asylum and School, West Craigmillar, Edinburgh. The subscription, payable in advance, is 10/- a year.

15. A meeting of the Committee of the International Conference (London, 1914), was held at 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., on 1st June, when there were present—Miss E. W. Austin, Mr. Walter H. Dixson, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. W. H. Illingworth, A. B. Norwood, Miles Priestley, A. Siddall, Henry Stainsby (Hon. Secretary), W. M. Stone, H. C. Warrilow, and Henry J. Wilson (Chairman).

Mr. H. W. P. Pine wrote regretting his inability to be present.

The Chairman explained the reason why the issue of the Report of the Exeter Conference had been so long delayed, and stated that he had undertaken to see that it was published without delay, but that when it did appear, it would be found to contain a very large number of typographical and other errors, which, when he took over the Report, could not be corrected. He also reported that he had visited Exeter and had done what was possible to put matters on a proper footing. He further reported that all books and papers which could be found had been sent to the new Hon. Secretary.

The Committee received and accepted with sincere regret the resignation, on account of failing health, of Sir Francis Campbell. The Hon. Secretary was requested to convey to Sir Francis the Committee's sorrow at his severance from them.

It was resolved that Mr. Guy Campbell and Mr. Joseph Mines be elected members of the Committee in the room of Sir Francis Campbell and Mr. C. M. Collingwood.

A number of suggestions for the conduct of the next Conference were produced and read, and it was resolved to send these, together with those relating to Standing Committees, to all Members, so that they might be considered and revised at the next meeting.

It was proposed to appoint several local Committees, and Mr. Stuart Johnson was elected Chairman of the Exhibition

Committee, and Miss Beatrice Taylor Chairman of the Hospitality Committee.

It was resolved to invite the following blind ladies and gentlemen to form a deputation to interview the Postmaster-General with a view to securing an international reduction in postage on embossed literature:—Miss S. M. Troup, Miss Lily Bell, Mr. W. H. Dixon, Rev. H. J. R. Marston, Mr. W. P. Merrick, Mr. Alex. Pearson, Mr. H. C. Preece, Dr. Ranger, Mr. H. M. Taylor, F.R.S., Captain E. B. B. Towse, V.C., and Mr. H. C. Warrilow.

16. A meeting of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held at 53, Victoria Street, London, on June 22nd, when there were present—Miss Garaway, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. Illingworth, B. P. Jones, Littlewood, Norwood, Pearson, Stainsby, Hon. Registrar, and Wilson, Chairman.

Letters regretting their inability to attend were received from Sir F. J. Campbell, Miss L. Douglas-Hamilton, and Mr. Stone.

The Examiner's Report showed that 25 candidates entered for the examination in May, two having previously qualified, entering for "Honours" only. Fourteen gained the College certificate, 5 men and 9 women, including the only blind candidate who sat for the examination. A hearty vote of thanks was given to the Examiners for their valuable and gratuitous services, and also to the Committee and Superintendent of the Royal Institution for the Blind at Birmingham for their kindness in affording facilities for the conduct of the examination.

The Examiners appointed for next year are Miss Bell, Miss Garaway, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mr. Ritchie, and Mr. Stone, and Mr. Illingworth as Moderator, and it was decided to hold the next examination in London in May—probably the 6th—and that all applications for candidates must be made on or before March 25th, 1913, to the Hon. Registrar, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W. Lady Campbell was appointed joint representative for the College, and the Smith Training

College on the Teachers Registration Council. A most satisfactory report was given on the Holiday course (v. page 598), and a committee consisting of Messrs. Illingworth, B. P. Jones, Littlewood, Norwood, and Pearson were elected to arrange the Holiday course for 1913. Lady Campbell was unanimously appointed a member of the Committee in the place of the Rev. Arthur Taylor, who has resigned.

17. The Committee appointed by the International Conference held at Exeter last year to consider the question of Libraries for the Blind met on May 31st, when there were present—Miss E. W. Austin, Hon. Secretary, Rev. C. E. Bolam, Lady Campbell, Miss M. Comber, Messrs. Dixon and Hamley, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Miss Moon, Messrs. Niederhausern, Royston, and Wilson (Chairman).

Letters regretting their inability to be present were read from Miss E. M. Bainbrigge and Miss I. M. Heywood.

The Hon. Secretary reported that she had sent out 210 circulars with reference to the Union catalogue, and the replies thereto having been considered, it was agreed to proceed with the formation of the catalogue, and the question slip was finally revised and approved.

The draft scheme of Federation, as amended at the last meeting, was reconsidered and approved, with the addition of a paragraph setting forth the financial arrangements, and it was agreed that the initial membership of the Federation should be by invitation.

18. On June 17th Mr. F. Priestman, Chairman of the Bradford Royal Institution for the Blind, opened a library which has been formed by amalgamating the embossed books for the Blind from the Free Library and at the Institution. The library will henceforth be worked at the Institution as a branch of the City Free Library. A blind librarian has been appointed.

19. We wish to bring to the special attention of our readers that excellent magazine, "Outlook for the Blind."

which is a quarterly record of the progress and welfare of the Blind. It contains very good illustrations and well written articles, which are of great interest to those who work on behalf of the Blind. It is carefully edited by Mr. Charles F. F. Campbell, son of Sir Francis Campbell, and is very cheap, the price being only 4s. 6d. post free per year. Post Office orders should be drawn for 4s. 6d. in favour of the "Outlook for the Blind," at Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A., and sent to 962, Franklin Avenue, Columbus, Ohio. The January number contained a very touching memorial tribute to Mrs. Campbell, the late co-editor, which shows her noble character, her indefatigable work for others, and, above all, her devoted motherhood.

20. On June 11th at the invitation of the North Staffs. Joint School Authority a large number of persons were present at the Blind and Deaf School at the Mount, Stoke-on-Trent, to inspect the new outdoor school shelters and the boys' summer camp. The Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education, in his report for 1910, enforced the importance of outdoor teaching. Open-air class work has from the first been recognised at the Mount, but the time which could be devoted to it has been dependent upon the weather.

The advantage to the general health of the children of open-air life has been so obvious that the committee and the headmaster of the institution (Mr. A. J. Story) have been for some time considering the advisability and possibility of putting up shelters about the commodious grounds which would admit of school work going forward in the open, regardless of rain or wind, and to a considerable extent even of temperature. Fourteen independent structures were necessary if all the scholars were to have their own classrooms, admitting of simultaneous teaching. The seven shelters which have been already built by the boys themselves under the direction of Mr. Story and the masters, cost from £9 to £10 each, and are so situated that the fronts face the south-west, which is considered the most suitable for the particular site. The backs are boarded to a height of some 15 feet, completely cutting off the occupants

from the east winds. On the three sides there are boards to the height of 3 feet 6 inches, the remaining space to the sloping roof being open but fitted with sliding cloth curtains to cut off rain or wind.

At the present time some 70 children—30 blind and 40 deaf—out of the 143 inmates of the institution are receiving daily instruction under these ideal conditions. The headmaster hopes that by this time next year the additional classrooms still needed will have been erected.

21. The new East Anglian Institution for blind and deaf children was opened by the Earl of Leicester at Gorleston-on-Sea on May 9th. It has been erected at a cost of £11,000 by the Education Authorities of Norwich, Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Norfolk, East Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, the Isle of Ely and Essex. The total cost for each school place was £87, and the cost of children in the school £35 each a year. The buildings stand in six acres of ground, presented by the Borough of Yarmouth, and consist of five detached homes, each with accommodation for 25 children, and a central school block with six class-rooms. There are two wings in which there are carpenters', tailors', and shoemakers' shops for the boys, and a kitchen and laundry for the girls. At present there are 100 children in residence. Mr. J. S. Barker is the Head Master of the school, and Mr. J. Stewart Illingworth, as we stated in our last number, is in charge of the "Blind" department. The five residential homes are called respectively Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, Essex and Ely, and are red brick structures with slate roofs.

The Chairman of the Joint Education Authorities is reported to have said at the meeting that the Institution was the first of the kind provided by a combination of authorities, and in the local newspapers it was called an "unique Institution," but our readers will remember that the first Institution of this kind was established as long ago as 1897 at Stoke-upon-Trent by the North Stafford Joint School Authority.

22. On May 9th, 10th, and 11th, an exhibition and sale of work was held at Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester. It was opened by the Lady Mayoress, and proved most successful—over 1,000 visitors having passed through the Asylum and attended the concerts, and more goods made by the Blind being sold than at any previous sale held in May. These functions are held every May and October, and are found very helpful, not only in disposing of the work done in the Technical Departments, but in arousing public interest in the work.

23. The 32nd anniversary of the foundation of the North London Home for blind men and women, 77, Hanley Road, Crouch Hill, London, N., took place on May 30th, when Sir Victor Horsley presided. The report for the year ended April 30th, 1912, was presented, and shows that there are 125 inmates in the Home, and 18 in the Southend Branch Home. Sir Victor Horsley gave an excellent address and referred to the Local Government Board's action in regard to Ophthalmia Neonatorum being made a notifiable disease, and said it was one of the commonest causes of blindness, and he looked forward to seeing it eradicated. He mentioned the good done by the Home, and the energetic superintendence of Mr. and Mrs. Bright, and concluded by saying that the care of the Blind was to some extent recognised by the State, but the question was always arising as to how far it could, with profit to the community, take over entirely a duty of this sort, or how it could meet the circumstances better than supporting an Institution such as that which they were considering that night.

24. Since the formation of the seven Unions of Institutions and Societies for the Blind, there have been two mutual rearrangements, viz., Rutland has been taken over by the Midland Union, and Herefordshire has been transferred to the South Wales and Monmouthshire Union.

25. A Bazaar was held on June 5th to 8th in the Birmingham Town Hall, in aid of the Henry Stainsby Pension Fund for

the Blind. The Chairman of the General Committee, Mr. Registrar Lowe, occupied the chair on the first day.

A most enthusiastic and hard-working Committee were responsible for the arrangements in connection with the Bazaar, and the free use of the Town Hall was kindly given by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, who is the Hon. Dentist to the Institution. Concerts and a Gymnastic Display were given by the pupils of the Royal Institution; and the Kindergarten pupils from the Harborne Branch also attended and entertained the visitors with songs, Kindergarten games, dances, and pianoforte playing.

The receipts amounted to £1,025, and after deducting the expenses, it is estimated that a sum of £800 will be handed over to the institution to the credit of the Pension Fund, which was inaugurated in January, 1909, to commemorate the long, excellent and faithful services given to the cause of the Blind by Mr. Henry Stainsby while connected with the Birmingham Institution. There are now three pensioners, the third having been elected last April.

Mrs. Price, an Hon. Life-Governor of the Institution, was the prime mover in this effort, as she was in 1907, in kindly raising a substantial sum towards the cost of erecting the additional Workshops for the Blind at Harborne.

26. A copy of the annual report of the Council of the British and Foreign Blind Association has reached us. It will be presented to the members for adoption shortly before the issue of this number. We notice with much satisfaction that H.M. the King has graciously promised to open the Association's new premises in Great Portland Street, when completed next year. By that time the Council hope to have the new buildings equipped and occupied. The report shews steady progress in every department, especially in the publishing one, where no less than 6,495 plates were stereotyped during the year, and the total number of books, pamphlets, magazines, and newspapers embossed in Braille was 150,189.

27. The 26th Annual Conference of the Scottish Outdoor Blind Teachers' Union was held in Edinburgh on June 7th, and passed off most satisfactorily. It commenced with a devotional meeting, and then Mr. C. W. Ness read the Annual Report, which showed that the work of the Union is being prosecuted with increasing benefit to the Blind. The Union comprises ten Societies, which extend over the whole of Scotland, as well as the Orkney, Shetland, and Western islands, and has 3,466 blind persons under their care, of whom 1,467 have been taught to read the raised types. In the libraries there are 20,475 volumes. Mr. Frew Bryden referred to the blind workers under the National Insurance Act. An address on libraries for the Blind was given by Mr. William Thompson, who suggested that there should be a central library in Edinburgh for Scotland. Mr. Frew Bryden thought that it would be a good thing to have one large central library in London, from which all the Societies in the United Kingdom could benefit. He also advocated a general national catalogue to include every volume in the libraries throughout the country. Mr. William Mathie thought it was not practicable for municipal libraries to provide books, and that this duty should fall on those experienced in the matter. He concluded by suggesting that grants should be made to the libraries belonging to the Home Teaching Societies. Mr. T. Mulholland thought a central reference library would be very advantageous to the Blind. In the afternoon Mr. Frew Bryden read a paper on "Pensions for the Blind: Voluntary and State." He dealt very fully and ably with the four sources of assistance to the Blind, and said that the workhouse was no place for the intelligent and respectable Blind of whatever age. He advocated State pensions for those between 16 and 70 years of age. Mr. Henry Stainsby gave a lucid address on "Literature for the Blind," in which he stated that the emancipation of the Blind came with the invention of embossed books in 1784 by Valentin Haüy, and that the history of the Blind begins from that date.

28. The Second Annual Report of "The Social Welfare

Association for London" has been published, and from it we cull the following interesting paragraph :

"The Blind Charities Committee has initiated an investigation into the condition of blind paupers in Poor Law Institutions in the Metropolis, with a view to ascertaining if (as has been successfully done in Bradford) the lot of such persons can be improved by co-operation between Poor Law Authorities and Voluntary Agencies in London. Details as to blind pauperism have so far been collected through the courtesy of Sir Arthur Downes from the following Unions: Bermondsey, Camberwell, Chelsea, City of London, Fulham, Holborn, Lambeth, Paddington, St. Giles, Bloomsbury, Southwark, Stepney, Strand. The particulars thus furnished are receiving attention, and it is hoped to put forward in the near future some practical proposals to achieve the end in view."

29. The 26th Annual Report of the Royal Institution for the Blind, North Adelaide, South Australia, shows that there are seventy-four blind persons and deaf mutes in the Institution and that 165 blind persons residing in various parts of the State receive benefit from the Home Teaching Department. The sales amounted to £11,661 and £4,149 were paid in wages. The library contains 1,972 volumes, of which 382 have been transcribed by local ladies. The much appreciated magazine *Morning* is published at this Institution. Mr. A. W. Hendry, Manager of the Institution, is to be congratulated on a very successful year's work.

30. The 17th Annual Report of the Victorian Association of Braille writers for providing literature for the Blind shows much progress in the State of Victoria, Australia. There are now 4,876 Braille volumes and 396 volumes of Moon type in the library. One hundred persons transcribe books for the library and fourteen persons were taught Braille last year for this purpose. A site has been obtained on which a building is to be erected for the accommodation of the books. There is a teacher in connection with the Association. A catalogue of the books is given at the end of the report.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE UNION OF INSTITUTIONS, &c., FOR THE BLIND IN THE METROPOLITAN AND ADJACENT COUNTIES.

The annual meeting of this Union took place in the rooms of Gardner's Trust for the Blind on Saturday, March 30th, at 12 noon, when Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Chairman of the Union, presided, and there was a large attendance. Amongst those present were Miss E. W. Austin, Miss G. E. Austin, Rev. Dr. Aglionby, Rev. P. T. Bainbrigge, Miss E. M. Bainbrigge, Miss A. M. Harris Browne, Miss Burnett, Lady Campbell, Mr. Guy Campbell, Mrs. and Miss Charnock, Mrs. Eden, Miss M. Everett, Miss Foakes, Miss Garaway, Mrs. Gatty, Mrs. Goodhart, Mr. Stuart Johnson, Mr. Lattey, Mr. Lempriere, Mr. T. H. Martin, Miss A. Meiklejon, Mr. Mulley, Mr. E. C. Price, Miss Robins, Miss I. Sharpe, the Misses Stewart, Miss B. Taylor, Mrs. H. J. Wilson, and Mr. Yoshimoto.

Letters regretting their inability to attend the meeting were reported from very many persons, including Captain Agnew, Miss Bloxam, Miss M. Comber, the Hon. Henry Cubitt, Mr. J. T. Edmonds, Mr. P. M. Evans, Miss Feilberg, Miss Griffith, Mr. Joseph Hall, Mrs. Inglis, Mr. Morphey, Mr. Mowatt, Mrs. Pocock, Mr. Stainsby, Miss Wheeler, &c., &c.

The minutes of the meeting of March 4th, 1911, having been signed, it was proposed by the Rev. P. T. Bainbrigge, seconded by Mr. Lempriere, and resolved unanimously "that Mr. Henry J. Wilson be, and he is hereby elected Chairman of the Committee for the following year." Mr. Stuart Johnson, Mr. Guy Campbell, and Dr. Ranger were also unanimously elected for the same period, as Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, and Hon. Solicitor respectively.

The members of the Executive Committee retiring and offering themselves for re-election were unanimously re-elected, with the addition of Mrs. Le Mesurier.

The annual report for the year 1911 was presented, and on the motion of the Rev. P. T. Bainbrigge, seconded by Mr. T. H. Martin, was adopted, and ordered to be printed and circulated.

The Hon. Treasurer presented the financial statement for 1911, which is printed in the report.

The Chairman having thanked all those who have been good enough to help the Union liberally with their time and means, and having referred to the fact that the brunt of the hard work fell on the Hon. and Organising Secretaries, he explained how admirably the minutes of the meetings were entered by the Hon. Secretary, and how the register of cases, brought to the notice of the Case Committee, was a model of neatness and lucidity. He also referred to the extraordinary amount of work which the Organising Secretary got through in a quiet and thorough manner, and how precise and accurate she was in office details. There was a danger, he thought, of her doing too much and working too hard in her earnestness and eagerness in the cause of the Blind.

He then read a paper (v. page 619) on "The care of blind children on leaving school," which he explained he had read on March 11th in the Council Chamber to the managers and head teachers of the special schools under the London County Council, and was now repeating at the special request of the Executive Committee of the Union. He added that it was difficult to condense such a large subject in a paper of ten minutes, the time allowed to him.

The Chairman then called on Mrs. Goodhart, Hon. Representative of the Union and Chairman of the Berks County Blind Society, to give an address on "Work for the Blind of Berkshire" (v. below).

Miss Charnock gave particulars of some individual cases brought to the notice of the Union (v. page 614).

On the motion of Miss B. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Lempriere, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the three speakers, with a request that the addresses should be published.

WORK FOR THE BLIND OF BERKSHIRE.

By Mrs. GOODHART.

I am only too pleased to try and give you a short account of our Berks County Blind Society. It is certainly quite appropriate to speak of it here, as we owe our existence

absolutely and entirely to the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union. The Society is one of your children, and though only about a year and a half old I think we may describe it as a fairly well grown child for its age. Just two years ago I was asked to be a District Representative and was sent a list of all the Blind in Berkshire, excluding Reading, where the Blind Aid Society is efficiently worked by Mr. Walford. To this day I am not sure whether I was intended to make a selection or to look up all the Blind. A selection seemed impossible, as there was only one blind person in my village, so I chanced it, and decided to look up the lot. By the Autumn I had fairly got in touch with the greater number and then felt I needed help. We had a big meeting at Mrs. Benyon's, and Mr. Wilson, Miss Taylor and I spoke. The result was a considerable amount of money collected, and a most energetic and useful committee formed, and the Berks County Blind Society came into existence. Since that time we have been steadily at work. We have regular quarterly meetings, and are now actually paying out in pensions annually about £40. This money is in no case paid directly to the blind person. Our treasurer, Mrs. Hanley, sends the money quarterly to some lady or gentleman living near the recipient, and they undertake to dole it out weekly. This answers a double purpose, as it practically ensures a friendly visit every week, and also prevents any possibility of fraud. We buy any saleable work made by Berkshire Blind, pay ready money for it, and store the work till we can induce some well known lady in the County to hold a garden sale for us. We then get our money back again with a big profit. We may not always do as well as we did last summer, but our Sale at Mrs. le Mesurier's was a phenomenal success. Four ladies, all well known people, held stalls, among which the work made by the Blind was equally divided, and each lady was asked to provide a few extra pretty things to make the stalls look cheerful. Altogether we had paid for work £32 7s. 2d., and at the Sale we received £55 14s. 2d. (including some work privately sold) —a fair profit.

Now we come to our library. We have sixteen Braille

readers and seven Moon readers. We pay postage both ways, and a stamped and addressed label is always enclosed for the return of the books. The expenses of the library are kept within £5, this amount being given us every year by a very kind friend who is herself fond of reading. The arrangements of this library have been rather a difficulty. We began with a subscription to the National Lending Library for the Blind, but found that our readers had frequently not finished the books by the time set for their return, and also that we did not need so many fresh ones as to make paying carriage to London both ways quite worth while. This year has witnessed a fresh departure. We have bought some books, had some lent us and a great many given us. I trust we have not *stolen* any, although there is always a possibility of forgetting the lenders. One of our kindest lenders is here to-day, but I hope she is not listening! Every one here is too well acquainted with the needs of the Blind to make it necessary for me to enlarge upon the boon that books are to them. The letters I have had from those who never have seen me, and indeed never *can*, are often so pathetically touching as to make their gratitude overwhelming. One feels one has done so little to ameliorate their hard lot, and yet they seem to think it so much. One woman, whom I know to be very very poor, sent last year several pairs of knitted gloves as a thank offering for the books. I did not quite understand her object and sent her a P.O. to pay for them. It was promptly returned with a Braille letter begging me to accept the gloves for the Sale, and this year she has already written to ask when our next Sale is to be, as she is anxious to prepare work for it.

I hope I have not been too long, but I started by saying I would tell you about your fine grown child, and mothers are never tired of hearing their children praised. There is one little point I should like to emphasize, as I think it has had something to do with our success. We are absolutely unsectarian, and the only thing that binds our Committee together is our determination to do all we can to help our blind friends, and to lift up a little the heavy darkness that enshrouds their

lives. I was asking a lady once if she knew of anyone in a certain village who would visit a blind person, and I found that the necessary qualifications of such a person were much misunderstood. The helpers we want may be any age, married or unmarried, but they should be possessed with the joy of life themselves and the conviction that that joy of life should belong to all, and also should be determined to do their part in rolling away the dense clouds of moral and physical darkness overhanging the world, and thus follow the example of our Master, of Whom it is said that "He gave sight to the Blind."

TYPICAL CASES.

By Miss CHARNOCK.

As a District Representative of the Union of Societies for the Blind in the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties, I have been asked to describe a few typical cases which have come under my notice in the last twelve months. Mine is a very poor district, with quite a hundred blind people living there, possibly more. Some blind people have the knack of making themselves known to just the kind of friends they need, and these friends help them, either in obtaining work or pensions, or whatever that particular person requires. Other blind people (and sometimes the most deserving) get tucked away into a corner, never seem to be heard of, know nothing of the existing blind charities, and have no one to advise or help them. This, of course, applies mainly to people who have lost their sight in later life, and I find this is due more often than not to overwork when they were young. One woman, for instance, with an invalid husband and a family of children to bring up supported them by working at a laundry for many years, but the long hours and hard work, lifting the very heavy irons, wrecked her health, and eventually brought on her blindness.

Another blind woman supported herself and her mother by dressmaking. She tells me she used constantly to work all through the night till three and four in the morning in order to make ends meet. She had a bad fall when she was 24, and by the time she was 28 her sight began to fail. She is now quite blind and paralysed down the right side, although only 38 years

of age. She told me once that the loss of power in her right hand "was worse than the blindness, but even so she is happier now than before she lost her sight!"

She found out all by herself how to knit the most charming dolls' clothes. These dolls can be dressed and undressed, and made in any colours people fancy, although I always think myself that the white ones are the most attractive. They look for all the world as if they were just off for winter sports in their little white jerseys, and caps set coquettishly on the flaxen curls. My friend Kate only charges 2s. 6d. for these dolls, and is very glad of orders. She also makes knitted dish cloths, familiarly known in many households as "swabs."

We District Representatives come in for all sorts of odd jobs; for instance, one day when I went to see Kate I found her with dreadful toothache. The doctor had told her weeks ago she must have all her teeth out, but though she had been suffering dreadfully, no one had offered to take her. The sister with whom she lives was too nervous. I volunteered to take her, and she and I spent two rather ghastly mornings together—one at the dentist's and one at the hospital. When I asked her anxiously on leaving the dentist after all her teeth had been extracted how she felt, she answered cheerfully, "Oh, I quite enjoyed it!" Her pluck is something wonderful.

What is always being borne in on me is how very much the work of our Union is needed. Old people so often say, "If I had only known about this and that blind charity 30 years ago I might have done something, now it's too late." This very specially applies to employment for the Blind, and also learning Braille and Moon types.

The work of a District Representative very closely resembles that of a telephone girl at the Exchange. A blind person rings us up, and we have to put them through to just the right person or thing they want. Many blind persons living lonely lives in their own homes are very glad of a weekly visitor for instance, who will come and read them the papers or a book. Dickens I find is a very favourite author. Others are very glad to have someone to talk to, and my blind people and their

visitors soon become fast friends; in fact, I never know which enjoy the visits most! I am fortunate enough to have six visitors now in my district all doing splendid work. To begin with they make the needs of the Blind better known to the general public. They help their blind friends by getting orders for them, through their own friends, and sometimes they help the blind person indirectly by giving employment to some other member of the family, such as dressmaking for instance. Then they relieve the monotony of the blind person's life by their cheery visits (sometimes taking them real country flowers), by having the blind person out to tea with them, and in all sorts of other ways.

One of the saddest first visits I have ever paid was to a blind woman whom I will call "Sarah." She was 50 years of age, and had been a cook until four or five years ago, when both her sight and hearing began to fail. She spent all her earnings on doctors and lodgings, but nothing could save her sight, and by the time she was 50 she was blind, very, very deaf, and penniless. After her active life, she felt the want of occupation terribly, and besides that she was almost cut off from human intercourse, as it was so difficult to make her hear anything. A brother and a sister allowed her 3s. a week between them, out of which she paid 1s. for her room and 6d. a week for her old father's insurance. She said she had paid this insurance for him for so many years she could not let it drop now, although it only left her 1s. 6d. a week for food and clothes. No wonder she was utterly despairing.

The first thing was to get her an ear trumpet. The Charity Organisation Society kindly lent her one until she could be fitted with one of her own, which they gave her. Then I wrote to the Home Teaching Society, and one of their teachers is sent to instruct her in "Moon." Next I applied to the Indigent Blind Visiting Society, and Sarah now goes to their Friday evening concerts and classes, and thanks to the ear trumpet enjoys them most thoroughly. She says she looks forward to Friday all the week.

We also applied to her former mistress, who sent £1 for

Sarah, asking me to give it her in weekly sums of 1s. or 2s. as she required, and another lady pays the father's insurance. So Sarah has 3s. a week at present for food and clothes, which is some improvement.

She has two visitors, one is teaching her to knit babies vests, the other gave her a second ear trumpet which fixes on to her head, thus leaving her hands free to hold the work. This same lady then arranged for Sarah to have a lesson in string bag making from another blind person. As Sarah was unable to master it entirely in one lesson, this lady went all the way down to Norwood where the teacher lived and learnt to make them herself, and then finished Sarah's education. The last time I saw Sarah she told me proudly she had made two, and sold them at 1s. 6d. each, and she had orders for four more. We hope before long she will be making a nice little income by selling these string bags and baby clothes. The only difficulty will be to get her sufficient orders. It is a real pleasure to see Sarah now she is so keenly interested in her work, and the ear trumpets have made an enormous difference. The old uncle she lives with reads aloud while she works, and she can join in the general conversation again.

Another great personality among my blind friends is "Martha." She has 4s. 6d. a week allowed her from her chapel. Rent is 2s. 9d., this leaves her 1s. 9d. a week for food, firing, and clothes. The first time I saw Martha she was making tea for herself and a friend. But she had no food and no coals, they were trying to boil the kettle over two little bits of wood broken off a packing case. The furniture consisted of a bed with no sheets and very little bedding. A table and one or two dilapidated chairs, a couple of old boxes, a little iron washing stand, and a garden watering pot in lieu of a jug. Two strips of carpet which have evidently been through troublous times and have not the dimmest recollection of their former pattern, made up the sum total of Martha's household gods. And on the top of all this, it is very delightful to see Martha sitting on the edge of her bed hugging herself for joy, and saying, "Oh, I am so happy, I do love my little Ome."

On cold nights these same bits of carpet go on Martha's bed to help keep her warm. The one thing that really mortally offends Martha is if anyone suggests she could go into a "home." The hapless suggester soon beats a hasty retreat. I am thankful to say neither my visitors nor myself have ever made this mistake. All Martha's deepest affections are lavished on "Billy," who when I first met him was a terribly attenuated black cat, with wild hungry eyes. Billy's figure is a thermometer by which to gauge Martha's financial position. Martha is now a candidate for the "Poor Adult Blind Pension," and in the meanwhile a lady is allowing Martha 2s. a week, and helps her occasionally with clothes. From the time Martha's fortunes rose, Billy's figure began to widen, and I am glad to say it is all that can be desired.

"Joseph" was a monumental engineer in very comfortable circumstances all his life, till this trying work brought on his blindness. The event of his life was hearing Jenny Lind sing when he was quite a lad. He is now 77, and he and his wife are so poor that they never have a fire, winter or summer, till 9 p.m., when the daughter who keeps the home together for the old people, comes back from work. Somehow or other, I have to get a fire for that old man through all the day before next winter comes, though how it is to be done I don't yet know.

I am evidently rather a puzzle to some of my blind friends, at any rate until they get to know me. One man asked me to call on his blind friend. I went round at once and introduced myself by saying, Mr. S. had asked me to call on him. We chatted pleasantly for a few moments, and then he exclaimed, "Now I know who you are, you are the person as waits on Mr. S.!" I could not help feeling a little hurt that I was not even the "*young* person" we all know so well by name.

Then rather a severe old lady who is always very much on the alert and makes the most of the little sight she has, said one day speaking of me to one of my visitors, "I wonder why she wears glasses?" My visitor replied, "I expect she is short-sighted." "No," replied the old lady in thrilling tones, "I'll

tell you why I think she does. It is because she wants to disguise herself when she goes amongst the poor ! ”

In conclusion I would like just to tell you of the wonderful kindness and thoughtfulness of a young man to a very lonely old Scotch woman. Mrs. Mac was telling me one day how she would like a visitor, and that she had not seen (blind people always talk of seeing) a fresh face for five years, before I visited her. “ But,” she continued, “ there is one person who never fails to come in and see me every day, winter and summer.” “ Your son, I suppose.” I said. “ No,” answered Mrs. Mac, “ it’s the postman.” He runs in every morning when he is on his rounds and says, “ How are you to-day, Mrs. Mac ? ” and brings in my halfpenny worth of milk, and asks if there is anything he can do for me. I remember him since he was a wee laddie holding on to my skirts, and we have been friends ever since.

THE CARE OF BLIND CHILDREN ON LEAVING THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL SCHOOLS.

The education of blind children, their after care and their employment in later life, are to them of the most vital importance. The three stages intersect, and must always be inseparable. The child is father of the man. If children be not properly and fully trained—I am speaking now of manual work and technical training—it cannot be expected that they will be good workmen. I understand that the number of children now on the roll of the Council’s day schools for the Blind is 238, and on the roll of the residential schools 94. Probably about 25 to 30 leave the residential schools annually, and what is to become of these children ? It is futile to expect blind children to go out into the world at the age of 16 with any prospect of their earning their own living. I will not say that there are not exceptions. Probably most of us know of some girls who do fairly well with their knitting machines, if the Fairy Godmother be near at hand to solicit orders, provide material at cost price, and most important of all, to get a sale for the goods when

made. These exceptions refer to befriended girls, but there are few, if any of us, who can say that blind boys can obtain remunerative employment at the age of 16. How can they be expected to do so, when it is difficult and often impossible even for the sighted? What remedy is there for the present lamentable state of affairs that makes it almost impossible for blind young men and women to obtain any employment, lucrative or otherwise, on leaving even one of the technical schools for the Blind where they have been fully trained? It may be said—in fact it has been said to me on many occasions—what is the use of spending a lot of money on giving the Blind technical training, and is it not positively cruel to do so and let them live in a fool's paradise, if there is no chance of their getting employment? This is a specious and plausible question, which cannot be answered by a simple yes or no. I will try to answer it by outlining a scheme. The Council schools are, as you are aware, for giving suitable elementary education to all blind children up to the age of 16 under the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act of 1893. At the age of 13 the children are given elementary instruction in manual work at the two residential schools, and I can testify to the excellent work done by some of the students at these schools, reflecting the greatest credit on their teachers. I would suggest, though very likely my suggestion is superfluous, that during these last years of education every effort should be made to ascertain the child's particular bent. There should be a thorough test, and when it is ascertained in which trade the pupil is likely to be most proficient, attention should be directed entirely to that one, and he should be encouraged to adhere to the choice. Then he will get properly grounded, and be ready to continue his course of instruction in the technical school. Let the Superintendent of that school not only be told what trade the child intends to adopt, but let a continuance of instruction in that trade be insisted upon. At this stage there should be no change without very serious reason, and the fact that the class, say for basket making, is complete, would be, in my opinion, no justification for putting the lad to mat making, where perhaps there happened

to be a vacancy. The blind child should be about four years, on an average, at a technical school, if he has been well grounded in an elementary school. I would like to add that County Councils and County Borough Councils have power under the Education Act (1902) Part II., which deals with higher education, to pay the fees for blind children above the age of 16. It is true that the power is only permissive, but I am glad to say many Local Authorities are taking advantage of this Act, and under it are giving the Blind technical training. The Gardner Trust also assists these cases, and during the last fifteen months a sum of £5,845 has been expended on the further instruction of 174 blind children on attaining the age of 16. Perhaps it would be well to avoid trades which take a long time to acquire. But now comes the real difficulty. Assuming the child to be proficient in a trade, how and where is he to get employment? He is brought up against a solid wall of difficulty. The Superintendent has said good-bye to him on leaving the Institution, and wished him all success, realising the immense difficulty in the way of his pupil ever getting regular employment far more than the latter. You must please clearly understand that I am especially referring to the Council's children, because it is well known that in Birmingham, Manchester, and elsewhere, many of the pupils on attaining 16 years of age are drafted off into the workshops attached to the schools, there to finish their training, and in many cases ultimately to find employment. This is not the case in London. There are no workshops attached to the Council, and the few workshops in London can find accommodation for only about 250 blind employees. London, the capital of England, the centre of the civilised world, is sadly in need of more workshops, and in this respect is far behind many of the provincial towns. I return to the pupil, whom we left at the door of the Institution, saying good-bye to the Superintendent. It has been well said by Mr. Stainsby, in his paper on "After-Care," that "the whole question of after-care in the case of the Blind is briefly summed up in *one* word, workshops." And there is not the slightest doubt that a blind person has great advantages when employed at one

of the workshops, such as a suitable workroom, well ventilated and warmed, the best material at hand, purchasers found for the goods when made, and constant employment with regular wages, which are generally supplemented in consideration of his blindness. But above all, there is the great advantage of sighted supervision and assistance when necessary. You may perhaps be thinking it useless to refer to workshops when they are full, and many applicants on the waiting list. Well, I hope this state of affairs will not last long, as some of us interested in the Blind have had a Bill drafted by Counsel which provides for technical training for the Blind above the age of 16, and for assisting the existing workshops and establishing new ones where needed. This bill has been approved by a large majority of the Institutions for the Blind in the United Kingdom. Therefore, I contend that the Blind after the age of 16 should receive thorough training in some special trade until they are proficient. Of course there must be some failures, but I think all ought to be tested, feeling sure that before many years are past it will be seen how imperative is the need for more special workshops in London. But meanwhile much can be done to find employment for those who have been properly trained. You know what Miss Beasley, Hon. Secretary of the After-Care Association, is doing for blind girls, and how since 1910 she has kept a complete register of all children leaving the residential schools, and intends to follow them up for at least three years. At Wimbledon a depôt for the sale of goods made by the Blind was opened by a lady last autumn, and has proved most successful. Twelve persons working at their own homes send their goods there, and so far the sales have exceeded all expectation. Again, in Cumberland there is a stocking guild for the Blind, where the necessary material is provided, and all well knitted stockings are at once purchased. Again, the Society called "Eyes to the Blind," provides a large amount of work for blind women in London at their own homes. And last year the Metropolitan Union of Societies for the Blind, besides putting a large number of blind persons in the way of maintaining themselves, found employment for twelve, sent nine for technical

training, and also opened a class in Brixton which gives employment to twelve women. Then, again, in Birmingham there is a typewriting office with four blind female operators, which, after allowing for rent, rates, and other dead charges, has made a profit varying from £18 to £75 a year during the last five years. It is true that during the first four years it was worked at a considerable loss, but now it is apparently carried on as a regular business on sound financial lines. What has been done in Birmingham it surely ought to be possible to do in London, especially as there must be a large amount of typewriting in connection with the Council's work, and the former pupils, of whom several have been thoroughly trained as typewriters, would probably have ample employment in the Council's offices without having to depend on the public as at Birmingham. One more word about employment. There is no doubt that machinery has superseded much of the work that can be done by the Blind, but still there are plenty of orders to be obtained in London if there were more workshops. I can testify as Chairman of the Federated Workshops for the Blind in London, that our traveller, whom we appointed only last June, has obtained more orders than the present workshops can carry out, and some £200 worth of orders at least have been definitely lost owing to the inability of the workshops to accept the orders when given. There is no time to refer to the various trades suitable for the Blind, but, outside the usual list, there are other openings. In New York, I hear, there is a blind barber doing very well. I would not, however, suggest this as a likely opening for a blind lad. My experience with blind barbers has not been a very happy one. I once heard of one in the West of England, but the following words at the end of an otherwise satisfactory report, were not encouraging: "He manages to shave his old customers, because he knows the shape of their faces, but—" and here I think you will agree with me that the following words speaks volumes—"new customers never come a second time." After the article on "Afterwards," written by Mr. Pine, of Nottingham, in *The Blind* for January, 1899, the two excellent papers read by Mr. Stainsby, of the B.F.B.A., at

the Conferences held in London, 1902, and Exeter, 1911, and the helpful little booklet called "After-Care," by Miss B. Taylor, it is difficult to say anything fresh on this all-important subject, which every Superintendent has so much at heart, but I hope that these few remarks may at least have the effect of inducing some kind-hearted friends of the Blind to step in and lend a hand, financially or otherwise, to find employment for them in the manner indicated, until more workshops are opened, so that the children who have been educated by the Council may, at any rate, have the opportunity of earning their living in part, if not wholly, and of becoming respected members of society.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NORTH OF ENGLAND UNION OF INSTITUTIONS FOR THE BLIND.

This Annual Meeting was held at the Colne Town Hall on May 30th. The Mayor of Colne presided over a large and influential assembly drawn from all parts of the north.

The chairman, after reading a number of letters of apology for non-attendance, welcomed the Union to Colne, and said they ought all to be delighted in the work it was carrying on. They were looking after the interests of people not capable of looking after themselves, who were suffering from one of the most unfortunate defects, and who were deprived of one of the greatest blessings that God had given to mankind.

Miss Heywood (the hon. secretary) then presented the report. The Mayor, in moving its adoption, said the Union was fortunate in having such energetic officials.

Mr. Booth, of Preston, in seconding, said they all felt very much encouraged by such a splendid report of useful work done. They, in Preston, had the honour of entertaining the Union some few years ago, and although they had been working amongst the Blind for a great number of years, the effect of the visit was to spur on the work and lead to forming another branch of the work. For a number of years they had schools

and workshops, and had done a great deal of very good work in that way. Two or three years ago they started visiting the Blind outside their Institution, and by doing so they had got in touch with a very much larger number of people, and the visits had been very much appreciated.

Dr. Nimmo Walker, of Liverpool, supported the motion, and remarked that one could not help being impressed by the extraordinary amount of work contained in the report. When one looked back upon the beginning of that society, it seemed marvellous how its influence had spread, not only in the northern counties, but its example had been copied all over Britain, and it must have done and be doing most excellent work all over the country. It had brought all these societies into touch, and it was an absolute touch of genius on the part of the founder, Miss Heywood. Everyone knew how long Miss Heywood had worked for the Blind, but forming that Union was the very best thing she had ever done for them. In regard to Liverpool, one could only say that the great change that had occurred in the past year in regard to the prevention of blindness had been the adoption of the compulsory notification of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

An address was given by Mr. W. H. Brown, M.A., of the West Riding (Yorks.) Education Department, on "The Education of the Blind, and the steps to be taken to interest the general public in their welfare and employment." He said that the secretary's report told them a great deal of the valuable work done by the Union during the past year, but it was also evident there was much more to be done before every blind person in the six northern counties was brought under the influence of a society for the care of the Blind. They did not want too much legislation for the Blind. The tendency of modern legislation had made it very difficult for anybody who was physically or mentally deficient to obtain remunerative employment. The development of machinery and its introduction into every branch of industry had a tendency to close occupations which were formerly open to people who had some defect or other. Legislation might seriously narrow the sphere of activities of blind persons! He

had many instances of this during the past few years in dealing with blind children who had become of age to go to work.

A discussion followed, which was contributed to by Mr. Day, of Blackburn, Mr. Siddall, of Rochdale, Mr. Tate, of Bradford, and Mr. Norwood, of the West Riding.

A vote of thanks to the Mayor and Mayoress and Mr. Brown was moved by Mr. F. J. Munby (Chairman of the Union). Mr. Munby said they owed a great debt to the Mayor. In his official capacity he gave them a welcome that indicated that Colne was a place in which the people had some regard and care for their blind neighbours. That was what the Union had been endeavouring to put forth. He hoped all would lend a hand and press forward the example of Colne and bring to the blind individual that friendship which they deserved, and receive in return the friendship and sympathy which would add to their store of happiness.

Mr. Tate seconded. He wished to add the expression of his personal sorrow, and the sorrow of those who knew him intimately, that had come to them at this time in the death of their revered friend, Dr. Hartley, than whom there had been no truer friend of the Blind and blind children in the north of England for the last 50 years. He hoped that some medical gentleman would step into the breach which his loss had made and take up earnestly, lovingly, and sincerely the care of the individual child which was for him all his life one of the most outstanding duties that God had placed within his reach.

The Mayor in reply said it had given him a great amount of pleasure to invite the annual meeting to Colne. One of the most important resolutions passed in the Council during his term of office on which he would look back with a great amount of pleasure was the one they passed adopting the notification of ophthalmia neonatorum. It was one of the most important measures they had taken in hand locally during the last twelve months.

Afterwards the delegates were entertained to tea by the Mayor and Mayoress.

The Blind.

VOL. III.

No. 60.

OCTOBER 19TH, 1912.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before December 18th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Kate Perry, at Clifton, Bristol, on July 18th, aged 75. Mrs. Perry was the widow of Mr. J. F. Perry of Bristol, and a family connection of the novelist "Hugh Conway" in whose masterpiece "Called Back" it will be remembered a blind man was the central figure. For nearly forty years Mrs. Perry was a member of the Committee of the Blind Institutions, first of the Home Teaching and Industrial Employment of Women Association; and since the amalgamation in 1907 with the Blind Asylum, a member of the combined Committee. For many years she was the Hon. Secretary of the Home Teaching Branch and took an active interest in all the branches of work for the Blind.

2. Mr. R. V. Bainton, late of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, at Worcester, and now an undergraduate at Durham University, has been awarded the Fawcett Memorial Scholarship of the value of £50 a year, tenable for four years.

3. Stanley Welsh, a student of the Yorkshire School for the Blind, passed last July the Associateship Examination of the Royal College of Organists.

4. The Music School of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester, has lately had a gratifying series of distinguished successes.

In March of this year Frederick William Andrews passed the first Examination in music for the degree of Mus. Bac., at Durham University. In May, news was received that Thomas William Platt's exercise had been accepted by the Durham Examiners. This exercise, which has to be an original work in four movements, must be passed before the final examination can be taken. In July George William Hilditch graduated in the Royal College of Organists as an Associate. and last month passed the first examination in music for the Durham Mus. Bac.

5. The next examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind takes place in London next May, and all applications from intending candidates must be made on or before March 25th, 1913, to the Hon. Registrar, Mr. Henry Stainsby, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W.

6. The Committee of the College of Teachers of the Blind have arranged for a Holiday Course of Lectures to Teachers, to be held in the East Anglian Schools, Gorleston-on-Sea, during Easter Week, 1913. All particulars can be obtained from Mr. W. Littlewood, Hon. Sec. to the Organizing Committee, School for the Blind, Hardman Street, Liverpool. It will be remembered that similar lectures held this year for the first time, were an unqualified success. We, therefore, hope that many teachers will avail themselves of this opportunity.

7. We repeat the following important announcement which has been made by the Committee of the College of Teachers of the Blind:—

All persons interested in the College have long realised the fact that there are teachers of standing, experience, and value who cannot be expected to sit for the College Certificate, but who should, nevertheless, be recognised by the College as fully qualified to teach the Blind.

The matter has had the careful consideration of the Committee and of the Board of Fellows, with the result that the Council have decided that all teachers who have had a continuous service of 15 years expiring 31st December, 1912, in any Certified School for the Blind in Great Britain shall, subject to the approval of the Board of Education in each case, be granted a recognition of Status.

Applications for recognition must reach the Honorary Registrar not later than 24th June, 1913.

This form of recognition will not be repeated, but all teachers will, after the year 1912, be expected to take the College Certificate by examination.

8. No. 56 of *The Blind* for October, 1911, has been out of print for a long time. Can any of our readers kindly spare a copy to send to a subscriber who is most anxious to obtain it in order to complete vol. iii. The editor will gladly receive a copy and pass it on, if sent to him, and will send a remittance for it.

9. With this number (No. 60) the third volume of *The Blind*—each volume containing 20 numbers—is completed. We notice that the number of pages has largely increased. In vol. i. there are 378, in vol. ii. 566, and in vol. iii. 648. Any numbers to complete vol. iii. (except Nos. 53, 54 and 56, which are out of print), can be obtained, price 3½d. each, post free, from the editor, although only one copy remains of several of the numbers.

In future numbers we propose to give full historical accounts of the various Institutions and Societies for the Blind in the United Kingdom with one or two illustrations of each. As the articles will be written by those officially connected with the respective Institutions, the information ought to be interesting and valuable. We are pleased to be able to report that we have already made arrangements for an account of the Royal Normal College by Lady Campbell for the January number, of the Royal Blind Asylum and School, Edinburgh, by Mr. W. M.

Stone, Headmaster, for the April number, and of the Workshops for Industrious Blind, Belfast, by Mr. J. H. Hewitt, Manager, for the July number.

10. All who are interested in the Blind, especially in the question of pensions, owe a deep debt of gratitude to Mr. Stuart Johnson for the Appendix, just published, to the 4th edition of "Annuities to the Blind," with a Register of Annuitants. Few people realize the enormous amount of work, and of vigilant care to avoid inaccuracies, that is necessary in bringing out a book of this nature with so much detail, and the heavy expense incurred. It is satisfactory to know that 39 charities have provided for this volume, the years in which the pensioners were born, and that an additional column, giving the years in which the pensioners were appointed, has been inserted. The names and addresses of 5895 recipients are given in the book, which is very clearly printed and strongly bound in a red cover to differentiate it from the last edition. It is printed for private circulation only, and will be found most useful.

11. Those of us who remember Captain Peirson-Webber, and his lectures on Poultry Culture at the Exeter Conference will be glad to hear that some result has rewarded his efforts. On 9th July, he began a three days' course of lectures on "Profitable Poultry Keeping" to the children of the Wavertree School for the Blind, Liverpool, at the invitation of the Committee. An open lecture was also held, illustrated by lantern slides, and the public attended in large numbers.

For the past year, the children of this School have been instructed in Poultry keeping, but the keen interest they displayed during the whole of the visit was remarkable.

Captain Peirson-Webber is also very keen to see "Scouting for Blind Boys" taken up in our schools, and following his suggestion, we hope to see in the Wavertree School, in the course of the coming year, an efficient Scout Patrol, of which Captain Peirson-Webber will be invited to act as Hon. Scout Master.

12. The re-union of old students at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester from the 8th to the 12th of July was a great success. On the Tuesday they motored to Aston Somerville to see the Rev. Stephen Whitehead, an old student of the College. On the Thursday the Speech Day took place, during which, compositions were performed by Messrs. Wolstenholme and Oke. There were 21 old boys present at the gathering and it was felt that there are still many years of useful work for the College to do.

13. Mr. W. H. Illingworth sends us the following paragraphs which will be read with much interest, and he adds: "that the grant in compensation for blindness will achieve the much desired purpose of raising the status of the blind worker industrially, socially and financially; whilst it leaves the incentive to industry as strong as ever, seeing the 4s. per week are to be given irrespective of the amount earned in wages. The worker—man or woman—who earns 25s. a week will get the benefit equally with the one who earns only 12s."

At a recent meeting of the Board of Management of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Old Trafford, Manchester, the following resolution was passed, subject to the approval of the Board of Governors:—

That from 1st October, 1912, a grant of 4s. per week be given to all blind journeymen and journeywomen in the employment of this Charity, as compensation for blindness in addition to their earnings, so long as they are, and continue to be, workers in the workshops of this Charity. As the present average earnings of the blind men in the institution workshops amount to 16s. per week, this grant will bring up their average individual income to 20s. per week.

This desirable end is attained without the risks attached to the principle of a "minimum wage," which often amounts to a premium upon idleness; inasmuch as, under the system adopted, incentive to industry still remains, the grant being given to all, whatever their earning capacity. It is in effect a reduction

of the handicaps imposed upon the Blind in the labour market of the world, owing to their lack of sight.

The Board of Henshaw's Blind Asylum have been encouraged to take this decisive step forward, first by the undoubted industry of their blind workers, and second by the conviction that the State will be more likely to support a measure which has been started by those specially interested in the care and employment of the Blind, than it would be to initiate a scheme of the kind without any effort on the part of those whose duty it is to lead in such matters, being first put forth.

14. An excellent article, which we hope to print in the next number, called "Dundee's Blind Citizens" has been written by Mr. Colin Macdonald for the Handbook which was prepared for the use of the members of the British Association when they met last month in Dundee.

15. Demosthenes' "The Crown" in Braille has been added to the Free Public Library, at Oxford.

16. On June 19th, by the kind invitation of the Committee of the Women's Institute, Miss Douglas-Hamilton held a Sale of articles made by the blind workers whom she employs.

During the afternoon Miss Harris Browne presided at the meeting, when Dr. Ranger gave an address, which he entitled "The Powers of the Blind." After giving some account of the good work done by Miss Douglas-Hamilton's Society, he went on to speak of the attitude of sighted people towards their blind fellows, and of the Blind towards the Sighted. He emphasized very strongly the fact that the Blind are in no way different from other men, except in the one great loss of sight; and he pointed out how much there was that they could still enjoy. Indeed, the concentration in the remaining four senses of the capacity for enjoyment conceivably added to its keenness. So it might well be that a blind man or girl would find more pleasure than others in good music, a good cigar, or a box of chocolates.

From his own experience, the lecturer insisted that true kindness lay in never allowing a blind person to realize that he or she was in any way conspicuous, and instanced his own enjoyment of walking at night when his blindness passed unnoticed.

Dr. Ranger alluded to the fact that a blind man's impressions of the outer world remain the same as when his sight failed, and he amused his audience by telling them that, in spite of all the talk of the day of the *matinée* hat and the hobble skirt, he still thought of women as dressed in the crinolines and coalscuttle bonnets that they wore when he was a boy of fourteen and could still see.

17. A very successful Sale was held last June, in the beautiful garden of Crown Point, Ealing, on behalf of the Sunbeam Mission. It is held annually, but this year, for the first time, an additional stall was arranged, on which every article had been made by blind women and girls. Instead of the proceeds being added to those of the other stalls to swell the funds of the Sunbeam Mission, the full price of everything sold was generously sent to the blind persons by whom they were made.

Most of the visitors expressed great surprise in discovering that the strong, evenly woven serges, glass cloths, etc., were the work of the Blind, and they much admired the specimens exhibited. Numerous pairs of socks, stockings and gloves were purchased, and the dainty string bags, in heliotrope, green, etc., were all bought up before the stall had been open an hour. But though the money taken—which, including a few orders, amounted to £14—must have brought joy to many a poor worker, there is no doubt that one of the chief benefits of the Sale was the opportunity it afforded of revealing to the public, even on a small scale, the skill and productive power of the trained Blind.

18. A bright little booklet, "A short life of Henry Fawcett, for all children everywhere," the work of Miss Winifred Holt,

has been recently published both in Braille and ordinary print by the New York Association for the Blind.

We are pleased to hear that special permission has been given to bring out a Braille edition in England, and we feel sure that it will be appreciated by "children of all ages," and that it cannot fail to attain its object of proving that—given a high courage, a steadfast will, and a true devotion to the good of his fellows—no blind man need be hindered by his lack of sight from doing a splendid work in the world, and leaving behind a name that ranks with those of the greatest benefactors of the human race.

No one can read even this brief and simple account of Henry Fawcett without feeling stirred, and incited to renewed endeavour; while at the same time, the story of his wondrous triumph over difficulties, puts to shame our talk of "insuperable difficulties," our fainthearted struggles, our easy despair.

Miss Holt is certainly to be congratulated on the vividness of the picture that she gives to us—his compatriots—of this great Englishman, whom, judging from results, she seems to have taken as a model in her own work of ceaseless and untiring energy in the cause of the Blind.

We anticipate with pleasure the production of the larger and more detailed monograph on our great Postmaster-General, to collect facts for which she recently visited this country.

English Braille copies can be had from the British and Foreign Blind Association. Price 7d., post free.

Copies of this book in ordinary print (published in New York) can be obtained, price 1/2, post free, from Miss B. Taylor, 39, Sylvan Road, Upper Norwood, S.E. The entire proceeds of its sale are for the benefit of the New York Association for the Blind.

19. The following poem called "A Blind Child's Holiday," was written by Miss Queenie Scott-Hopper after reading an account of a country holiday with which two little blind children were provided by the generosity of a "Sunbeam." They were taken away, although it was during the school holidays, by their

kind blind teacher, whose letter vividly describes the children's enjoyment of country "sights" and sounds :—

You think it's only Seeing Folk who find the country sweet ?
That, if you come without your eyes, you cannot share the treat ?
That God has put no beauty there, except for those who see ?
I wish you could have changed your place a little while with me.

If only for the Seeing Folk God made the country sweet,
Then will you tell me why He put that music in the wheat ?
I do not know if Seeing Folk catch words in what it sings—
I only know that yesterday it taught me lots of things.

If only for the Seeing Folk God made the country sweet,
Then tell me why there's nine in ten of all the flowers we meet
Have fragrance at the heart of them, breathed forth in magic
wild—
The very speech God's Love would choose to reach a sightless
child.

If only for the Seeing Folk God made the country sweet,
Then tell me why the breeze is there, that roams on fairy feet ?
The dearest, friendliest playfellow —that no one's eyes have seen !
He fans your cheek, and strokes your brow, and whispers where
he's been.

If only for the Seeing Folk God made the country sweet,
Then tell me why the brambles grow where all may pluck and eat ?
You haven't got to climb for them, nor seek them far and wide—
Ripe clusters fringe the safest path along the meadow's side.

You think it's only Seeing Folk who find the country sweet ?
Lie down so close to Mother Earth you feel her great heart beat :
Then shut your eyes, as tight as tight, and play you're blind
like me—

And try if there's no message hid for folks who cannot see.

O not alone for Seeing Folk God made the country sweet !
The sunshine on the mosses warm ; the birds in high retreat ;
The brook that round your ankles plays ; the boom of honey bee ;
There's Nature's message writ in Braille for folks who cannot see.

This poem is printed as a leaflet for the Branch for the Blind (Sunbeam Mission) whose special object is to brighten the lives of the blind children of the poorer classes. Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Miss B. Taylor, 39, Sylvan Road, Upper Norwood, S.E.

20. It has been a great pleasure to us to meet Mr. José Perez Mendoza, who came over from the Argentine Republic to make enquiries on all matters connected with the Blind, before a suitable building is erected in Buenos Ayres. This is the first great effort that has been made in the Republic for the amelioration of the condition of the Blind, and it is proposed to have a school, workshops and a home under one roof in a large building. We wish Mr. Mendoza all success in his great undertaking, and trust that his energy and keen interest in the cause of the Blind will be richly rewarded.

THE UNION OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

The Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union. A meeting of the Committee was held at 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., on the 1st June, when there were present: Mr. Wilson (in the chair), Lady Campbell, Miss Burnett, Miss Charnock, Mrs. le Mesurier, Miss Taylor, Miss Wheeler, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mr. Stuart Johnson, Mr. Stainsby, Mr. Guy Campbell and Miss Bennett.

On the motion of Lady Campbell, seconded by Miss Taylor, Mr. Wilson was requested to send a letter of condolence to Mrs. Hogg on the death of Dr. Hartley, of Leeds.

It was reported that in reply to the memorandum sent to the Board of Education, re employment of Blind Teachers, Mr. Pease had written that he would take an opportunity of visiting the different institutions, so as to obtain first-hand information for himself. Mr. Wilson communicated with the Hon. Secretary and suggested that Mr. Pease should be invited to visit the

College. This had been done, and Mr. Pease had fixed the 25th June for his visit.

The Chairman reported that he had considerable correspondence from different institutions enquiring what it was proposed to do in the matter of insurance, and asking for his recommendations. After careful consultation with various authorities, the Chairman thought it would be safe for the matter to be postponed until such time as a list of the approved societies had been issued. Everything seemed to point to the fact that all things considered, the Church Benefit Society would be the society best fitted to help the Blind. Some of the institutions had already joined it.

Regrets for inability to attend the meeting were reported on behalf of Mrs. Goodhart, Mrs. Inglis, Miss Bainbrigge, Miss Harris Browne and Miss Moon.

Miss Burnett reported that she had visited Margate and had interviewed Mr. Rowley, and on the motion of Miss Burnett, seconded by Mr. Stuart Johnson, Mr. Rowley was unanimously elected Hon. District Representative for Ramsgate and District.

A letter from Dr. Ranger, with regard to the incorporation of the Union, was read. The letter set forth the advantages of incorporation, its approximate cost, and stated that it would take from a fortnight to a month to carry the matter through after receiving instructions.

The Chairman reported that towards the cost of incorporation he had received from an anonymous donor the promise of £30; Miss Taylor kindly promised £2 more.

It was reported that 34 tickets had been sent out during the month from the Ticket Bureau.

The Chairman reported that his attention had been drawn to the fact that it might be possible for blind girls to make the centre part of a new kind of golf ball. The pin around which the material had to be wound was exhibited, and an explanation given as to what had to be done. It was agreed to make a trial.

An enquiry from Miss Armitage was considered, whether the Union thought it would be possible to make use of blind people in connection with marine diving. It was pointed out that often the sea water was so opaque, that in spite of electric lights the

diver had to depend almost entirely on the sense of touch to do any work whatever.

A meeting of the Committee was held at 53, Victoria Street, S.W., on the 6th July, when there were present: Mr. Wilson (in the chair), Lady Campbell, Mrs. Goodhart, Miss Bainbrigge, Miss Harris Browne, Miss Burnett, Miss Moon, Miss Beatrice Taylor, Mr. Stuart Johnson, Mr. Guy Campbell and Miss Bennett.

Mrs. Hogg's letter, thanking the Committee for their letter of sympathy with her in the loss of her brother, Dr. Hartley, was read.

It was reported that improvements were being made in the manufacture of the golf balls, which it was thought blind girls could help to make. The testing of the girls was, therefore, for the time being deferred.

It was reported that Mr. Pease had visited the Royal Normal College on the 25th June, accompanied by Sir George Newman, and had expressed himself much pleased with his visit.

Regrets for inability to attend the meeting were reported on behalf of Mrs. le Mesurier, Miss Charnock, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mr. Lempriere and Mr. Stainsby.

The Chairman read the principal points of the proposed Memorandum and Articles of Incorporation which had been kindly prepared by Dr. Ranger. One or two questions were raised and it was then unanimously agreed, on the motion of Miss Taylor, seconded by the Hon. Secretary, that a most sincere and hearty vote of thanks be and is hereby tendered to Dr. Ranger for the infinite pains and trouble he had taken in preparing the Memorandum.

It was reported that copies of the Report and leaflets with regard to the Prevention of Blindness, had been on the literary stall at the Health Conference and Exhibition, held in the Horticultural Hall, from the 24th to the 27th June, and that 170 tickets had been sent out during the month from the Ticket Bureau.

It was further reported that there had been a Sale of Work at Ealing, in connection with the Sunbeam Mission, when Miss

Taylor had taken charge of a special stall supplied with goods made by the Blind. Pupils from the Royal Normal College attended to assist by demonstrating knitting, reading, writing and typewriting.

The total number of cases considered by the Case Committee since January, 1911, amounted to 238, while many others had been given advice by means of letters and interviews.

A letter was read from Mr. Carr, Secretary of the Social Blind Aid Society, expressing their desire to support any action to be taken for the employment of blind teachers.

Mr. Johnson reported that he had visited Colchester and had spoken at a meeting of the local Home Teaching Society for the Blind. He reported that all passed off satisfactorily.

Western Counties Union. A meeting was held on July 31st in the Committee Room at the Workshops for the Blind, Bristol. The Chairman, Mr. F. Richardson Cross, presided. Rev. S. F. Harris was appointed Honorary Secretary, *pro. tem.* Captain Metcalfe, Mr. C. H. Barrett and the Honorary Secretary were elected Delegates to the Meeting of the Union of Unions. A long discussion on the development of the work of the Western Counties Union followed.

Midland Counties Union. The principal recent event has been Miss Edith Wright's joining this Union. She took up residence in Malvern on 1st May in order to organise the two counties of Worcester and Stafford. Her advent has been welcomed by the Blind Associations of Walsall and Wolverhampton and by Worcester College.

In the neighbouring County of Warwick the newly formed Blind Association held its first Annual Meeting at Clopton, Stratford-on-Avon, on 21st June. The President, Lord Algernon Percy, took the chair, and about 50 members and friends were present. Mr. Stainsby, who had promised to speak, was prevented by illness at the last moment, and his place was taken by Mr. Preece. Miss J. Merivale also attended the meeting and spoke a few words on the kind of help needed by the Blind.

In Buckinghamshire the work of the Association for that County is proceeding on excellent lines. The visitors in each of the four Divisions have held meetings and discussed their various cases and are taking action on behalf of such as need help, whether by Pension, Education, Visiting, Employment or Literature. A Braille Circulating Library is being formed for all who can read in any part of the County. It has been arranged to have a tent at the Agricultural Show at Waddesdon, in which the best workers in the County will work at their baskets and chair caning, and articles of all sorts made by the Blind will be sold.

Miss J. Merivale is acting as Hon. Secretary for the South Buckinghamshire Division for the present, but it is hoped that a local Secretary will be found before long. Mrs. Knapp (Linford Hall) has been elected Central Secretary for the County, and Mr. T. F. Freemantle, Chairman.

The Hon. Secretary of the Peterborough Committee for the Blind, Mrs. Dennet, visited Oxford last month. One lady looks after the totally blind and another the partially blind. Amongst these latter a number of children of school age raise a difficult question as to how they shall be taught. The Education Committee rather shy at sending 10 children at once to special schools at £30 a year apiece.

INTERNATIONAL POSTAGE.—DEPUTATION TO POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

On Thursday, July 18th, at the General Post Office, the Postmaster-General received a Deputation of blind persons appointed by the Conference Organization Committee to confer with him on the question of reduced international postage on embossed literature. The members of the Deputation were Mr. H. M. Taylor, M.A., F.R.S., Rev. H. J. R. Marston, M.A., Mr. W. H. Dixon, M.A., Miss Lily Bell, Mr. W. P. Merrick, Mr. H. C. Warrilow, F.R.C.O., and Mr. H. C. Preece.

The Deputation was introduced by Viscount Valentia, M.P.

Mr. H. M. Taylor thanked the Postmaster-General for his kindness in receiving a Deputation of the Blind. Many years

ago he knew Mr. Henry Fawcett very well, but when he was talking to him he little thought that he would one day visit the General Post Office to speak, as a blind man, on behalf of the Blind. But he knew from his experience how great was the need of the Blind for embossed literature and music of all kinds, and in his own case, although he lost his sight late in life, he had found the very greatest advantages in having a ready access to embossed literature. Mr. Taylor paid a tribute to the great boon which Mr. Sydney Buxton, the previous Postmaster-General, had conferred upon the Blind in 1906 when, after he had been some months in office, he made a considerable reduction in the inland postal rates for embossed letters and books. That reduction had given a great impetus to the production and use of embossed literature, and the Blind were very grateful for the advantages they possessed in this respect. Mr. Taylor then drew attention to the very heavy rates charged for embossed literature sent by post to foreign countries. He showed to the Postmaster-General a volume of Scott's "Ivanhoe" and a copy of *Progress*. "Ivanhoe" was published in six volumes, and weighed 25lb. The price of the six volumes was 19s. 6d., and the postage within the United Kingdom was 10d. A table was given showing the amount of postage to different countries including :—

		<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>			<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
South Africa	...	24	9	Italy	...	9	9
Australia	...	19	0	Russia	...	9	9
New Zealand	...	12	6	China	...	15	0
India	...	12	0				

The price of *Progress* was 6d., and the postage within the United Kingdom 1d. The postage abroad was 6½d. He thought that these figures demonstrated that the rates were very high in proportion to the rates for the United Kingdom, and the Deputation trusted that the Postmaster-General would find it possible, in conjunction with other countries, to bring about a substantial reduction. The boon would be appreciated by readers of embossed literature and music, not only in our own Colonies and Dependencies, but throughout the world.

The Rev. H. J. R. Marston said he would confine his observations to the imperative necessity of doing something to

educate and train the enormous numbers of the Blind in India. He had recently been told that there were over 500,000 Blind there, and that these were mostly living under conditions of destitution and ignorance. A reduction in postal rates would enable us to despatch larger amounts of the necessary books for this purpose.

Mr. H. C. Preece stated that cheaper postal rates would have a great effect in improving the condition of the Blind throughout the Empire.

Miss Bell referred to the schools in India and the Colonies which were engaged in teaching the Blind. The very heavy postal rates hindered these schools in getting a sufficient number of text-books—and the latest text-books were essential if the Blind were to be well educated.

Mr. W. H. Dixon stated that at the International Conference of the Blind at Exeter, very strong representations were made in favour of a reduction of international postal rates, and this Deputation was the result. He spoke of the international aspect of the question. It was essential, owing to the cost and difficulties of production, that similar works should not be published in embossed type in different countries, and the lowest practicable rates of postage between different countries were essential in order to promote the frequent interchange and distribution of embossed books of all kinds. Purchasers, for instance, of the Latin and Greek Classics in embossed type, were limited, and cheaper rates of transmission would make the limited supply more available for the Blind of all countries who required these books.

Mr. Warrilow pointed out that the same arguments applied to music as well as to literature. Many of the Blind gained a livelihood as musicians, and it was very necessary that music at the cheapest possible rates should be available in countries other than that of its production.

The Postmaster-General, as reported in the *Braille Review*, said he was very glad to receive such an unique Deputation. He warmly congratulated them on one point which distinguished it from all other Deputations which he had received during the

two-and a-half years that he had been in office. It was the first Deputation that had expressed its gratitude for what had been done during the past, and he was very pleased to hear that the Blind had so much benefited by the reforms which were carried out by his predecessor, Mr. Sydney Buxton. He congratulated the members of the Deputation on the clear and forcible way in which they had expressed their views, and he would do everything possible to help them. Those who had known him in political life and in the Post Office would not forget the great work which was done by that distinguished blind Postmaster-General, Mr. Henry Fawcett ; and he would like to tell the members of the Deputation that the only record in the room in which they were sitting of any of his predecessors was a picture in bas-relief of that statesman. As to the points which had been raised, he was informed that the question of International Postal Rates of Embossed Literature had not been considered since the Conference of the International Postal Union in 1885. These conferences were held at intervals of about six years, and the representatives of the different Governments in the Postal Union discussed a number of proposals and projects dealing with the very complicated details of international postage. The Deputation, however, had come to him at a most opportune time. The next Conference of the International Postal Union would be held at Madrid, in April, 1913, and communications were already passing between the different Governments as to the subjects which were to be discussed. It had been pointed out to him that it was possibly already too late to include this question among those arranged for discussion, but he thought that there was little doubt that he would be able to get this question set down for consideration. No time, however, was to be lost if those interested in the question were to get a decision at this Conference next year. Institutions for the Blind in other countries and individuals interested in the question should be at once communicated with in order to get the respective Postmasters-General to arrange that their representatives should support the proposition in favour of reduced International Postal Rates for Embossed Literature. He agreed with the Deputation

that the International Postal Rates were very high. He gladly acceded to the wishes of the Deputation to take steps to bring about this reduction, and the British Representative would no doubt be instructed to take the lead when the subject was discussed. Of course, he could not promise any tangible and satisfactory result, but the British Post Office held a commanding position because our Colonies and Dependencies were scattered all over the world, and the views of its Representatives at the Conference therefore carried considerable weight. Even if it was not found possible to reduce the International Rates, he thought it might be possible to charge reduced rates for transmission within the Empire.

Viscount Valentia thanked the Postmaster-General, and stated on behalf of the Deputation that they very much appreciated the sympathetic treatment and the promise of help which they had received.

As an outcome of the satisfactory interview with the Postmaster-General, the following letter, signed by Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Chairman of the Conference Committee, has been despatched to the Chairmen of all the principal Institutions for the Blind in the world:—

“At the International Conference on the Blind held in 1911 at Exeter, England, a Committee was appointed to urge upon the British and other Governments in the Postal Union the necessity for a reduction of the present heavy postal rates for the transmission abroad of embossed literature and music. On July 18th, 1912, a Deputation waited upon the British Postmaster General and asked for his support to the desired reduction of those rates. In his reply to the Deputation, the Postmaster-General was most sympathetic, and promised to do what he could in the matter.. He said that the next Conference of the Governments in the Postal Union would be held at Madrid in April, 1913. He impressed upon the Deputation the necessity of communicating without delay with the various Associations and Institutions for the Blind in other countries, so that they might urge their respective Governments to instruct their representatives at the Conference to support the proposal for the reduction.

I therefore venture to suggest that you take immediate steps to approach your own Government in order to secure their official support.

I enclose a statement showing the cost of postage of two definite publications from Great Britain to a number of other countries, under the present rates. This list was submitted to the British Postmaster-General, and he agreed that the postage seemed very high. These excessive rates restrict both the supply and the demand, and check the international circulation of embossed literature and music published in different countries."

PRESENTATION TO SIR FRANCIS AND LADY CAMPBELL.

The annual prize festival of the Royal Normal College was held on July 17th, when Lord Lamington presided, and the prizes were presented by Lady Lamington. There were school classes in the garden, a display of gymnastics in the gymnasium, and a short but excellent concert. Lord Lamington's speech referred with great perspicuity of appreciation to the excellent and beneficent work carried on by the College, but his words became of even greater interest when he referred to the impending retirement of Sir Francis Campbell as Principal of the College, an announcement that must fill all hearts with regret and dismay.

Behind this remarkable man lies a long life of strenuous and continuous work on behalf of the Blind—work along lines for the greater part originated and carried out by his own ever-busy brain, and no man has better earned the rest and peace that age should bring. Sir Francis Campbell has been one of the giants of the "Blind" world, and it is matter of common knowledge that he has raised the status of the Blind to an almost incredible extent by the force of his example as a blind man. The Royal Normal College has indeed proved a guiding star in the world of blind education, and has had a helpful and uplifting influence in many directions. No notice of Sir Francis Campbell's work would be complete without referring to her who for so many years has been the faithful sharer in every detail—the power behind the throne, the keen and loving eyes to the Blind, without

whose wise and ready help the darkness would have been dark indeed. Lady Campbell comes second only to Sir Francis in the affectionate admiration of their many friends and pupils.

September 11th was a unique day in the history of the College. It may fitly be described as both sad and joyful, for the occasion was the presentation of handsome gifts to Sir Francis Campbell on his retirement from the post of Principal of the College, and to Lady Campbell, and the sadness that is inseparable in this world of beginnings and endings from the act of writing "finis" to a long and honourable career, was strangely intermingled with the joy of giving and receiving the love and deep respect of those, both past and present students, who owe to Sir Francis and Lady Campbell light brought into their darkened lives, and the power and ability to go forth into life as self-respecting and self-supporting men and women, instead of being left to become the helpless recipients of the cold charity of the world. On the occasion of the presentation, the chair was taken by Mr. Alfred Hollins, so well-known in the musical world, and an ex-student of the College. After Mr. Guy Campbell had read letters from Mr. H. J. Wilson, Mr. Philip E. Layton (of Montreal), and a telegram from Col. Campbell, a member of the Executive Committee of the College, all expressing appreciation of Sir Francis Campbell's work, the Chairman made a speech full of feeling and affection in which he referred to old days, and the wonderful results of the work done at the College. Following this, the presentation was made by Mr. Hollins, consisting of the address, which bore the names of subscribers on the back, and the handsome gifts mentioned therein. The address was as follows:—

"To Sir Francis and Lady Campbell, on their retirement from active duty as Principal and Lady Superintendent respectively of the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind, Upper Norwood, London, September, 1912.

We, the past and present students of the Royal Normal College, desire to express to you our deep sense of gratitude for the untiring zeal and never-failing kindness with which

you have, for so many years, fostered and furthered our worthiest interests.

On behalf of the Blind, you have fought a glorious fight against prejudice and ignorance, and to-day, the Royal Normal College, with its forty years' record of splendid achievement, stands a noble monument to the wholehearted devotion with which you have pursued your life's exalted aim.

The thoughtful solicitude with which you have watched over our individual welfare must ever keep the memory of your goodness fresh in our hearts, as it inspires us with feelings towards you of profoundest respect and esteem; and it is our earnest prayer that your future may be brightened by the knowledge of these assurances.

We ask your acceptance of this address with the accompanying silver tea and coffee service, clock, and brooch, as an evidence of our heartfelt appreciation of your noble efforts in the cause of the Blind. We trust that a rich portion of your spirit may descend on those who carry on the work with which you have been so long and so honourably identified; and that the College may ever uphold the high ideals for which it was founded.

Signed on behalf of the present and past students, Alfred Hollins (chairman), Amelia A. Campbell, Emily M. Lucas, Marion Weaver, J. S. Brand, Jos. Cawood, J. H. Mines, A. P. Pearson, H. F. Watling, Alfred Carr (hon. secretary.)

Sir Francis returned thanks, and also Lady Campbell, who said: "I am quite overcome by your generosity and the form of the testimonial. A simple 'Thank you,' when it comes from the heart, expresses, perhaps, as much as many more words can possibly do. It is impossible to thank you adequately for this beautiful present. We did not need this valuable gift to assure us of your esteem and affection, and the knowledge that we have been able to help some of you start in life as independent men and women, in spite of your handicap, is sufficient reward for any labour it has cost us. But we accept with heartfelt thanks the gifts which will testify to our children and grandchildren,

when we have 'passed hence,' the kindly feeling you cherish for us and your *Alma Mater*. I wish to urge upon you all the importance of remembering that each of you is largely responsible for the future success of the College. Every active, earnest, upright man or woman who has been in the past, or shall be in the future, a pupil within its walls can do much to convince the public that the Blind are worthy of an education equal to that given the seeing, with whom they will have to compete. You all remember the old watchwords—'Build your cottage on the sunny side of the hill;' "Storm the fort and capture the castle.' The step of the old standard bearer is slow and halting, and each of you will have to carry on the battle against the prejudice that still lingers in the mind of the public against the employment of the Blind on an equal footing with the Sighted. In looking over my books a few weeks ago, I came across a copy of 'Border Ballads inscribed to Miss Sophia E. Faulkner, from the pupils of the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind, December, 1872.' It brought to mind the little group of boys and girls that gathered round our first Christmas tree that December. Some of them are with us to-night, and some have passed to that home where there is no darkness. Between these two presentations how much has happened for which we have cause to be thankful! How many friends have been raised up to help the College! How many fellow-workers on the staff have devoted themselves untiringly to assist us in the daily round of duties! How many earnest scholars have worked perseveringly to acquire that knowledge and skill which would enable them to be a credit to us and themselves! For these and other blessings we thank that loving Father who helps and sustains all those who trust in Him."

The day's proceedings opened with a memorial service for Miss Proctor, who for twenty-six years was Matron of the College. Reminiscences were next given by Miss Amelia Campbell, and a photograph taken of the company. There was a discussion on various school matters, and at six o'clock the guests were entertained at supper by Sir Francis and Lady Campbell. An impromptu concert followed the presentation.



